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Taba agreement signed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel and Egypt signed agreements Sunday handling sovereignty over the Taba beach strip to Egypt and ending a border dispute that has troubled relations for the past seven years. Under the agreements, Israel will withdraw from the 700-metre border strip March 15, Israel will pay \$10 million to Egypt for the strip, and Israel will pay \$10 million to Egypt for the strip. The agreements also cover the Israeli-Syrian border in the Golan Heights. The other agreements cover cooperation by Egypt to build a hotel and beach resort in Taba, the construction of Israeli services, including electricity and water, to Taba and Israel's access to the border area. The agreements represent the first step in the process of normalizing relations between Israel and Egypt. The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said the agreements are a "significant step towards peace in the Middle East." The Egyptian Prime Minister, Hosni Mubarak, said the agreements are a "significant step towards peace in the Middle East." The agreements will be signed in a ceremony in Taba on Monday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية غير منحازة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

S. Yemeni premier welcomes ACC

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen Sunday welcomed the formation of Arab alliances, including the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) grouping Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq and the Arab Maghreb Union of Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Mauritania and voiced hope that such forms of unity would accelerate efforts to find a way out of the state of division and splitting. North Yemen Prime Minister Said Nu'man said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that his country considers such groupings as a serious step capable of strengthening Arab positions. Former Arab League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad said the ACC "possesses all components of success for a larger Arab alliance." In an interview with the Egyptian Arabic weekly October, Riad called on the ACC member states to give priority to the economic interests and to achieve the highest degree of coordination among themselves to ensure the best exploitation of resources available in the four countries. In Baghdad, Iraqi political sciences professors at Baghdad University said the formation of the ACC "constitutes a guarantee for Arab future and is a step towards achieving pan-Arab security."

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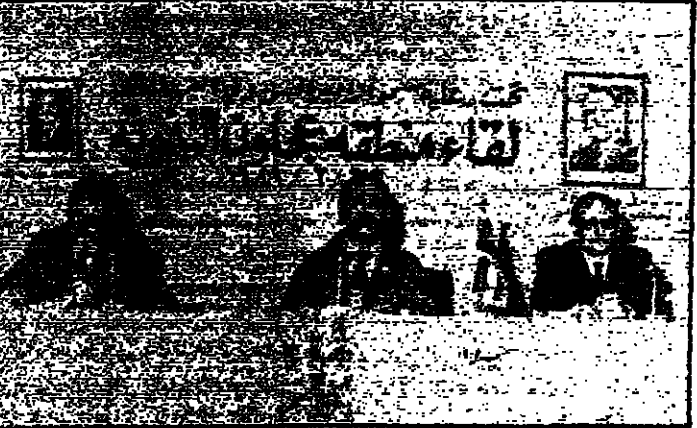
Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King sends message to Saleh

SANAA (Petra) — North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh Sunday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein, dealing with the general situation in the region and issues related to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). The message was delivered by King Hussein's political adviser, Adnan Abu Odeh.



Ali Abdullah Saleh



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, flanked by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thagwan Haidawi (right) and Planning Minister Taher Kanaan, addresses a meeting on Ajloun development Sunday (Petra photo)

Talks on Ajloun development

Regent stresses need for collective action in planning

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday called for collective action to achieve a broader and more comprehensive form of regional planning aimed at providing better services for citizens. Prince Hassan also called for avoiding duplication of work and stressed the need for clear vision and commitment by all the parties concerned to serve public interests. Addressing a comprehensive development seminar held in Ajloun, the Regent referred to the possibility of introducing the concept of technical-administrative to the municipalities and called for abandoning improvisation in taking decisions. He also called for achieving a form of agreement between the municipality's technical administration and the mayor since their roles complement each other. The Regent stressed the need for amending the provisions of highland development projects to cover such activities as follow-up on the projects and supporting farmers, and called for involving the youth and the Armed Forces in the development process in the future. Prince Hassan also referred to the concept of the unified financial purse, grouping all the credit

Japan, Jordan call for peace conference

King meets Takeshita, Arab diplomats in Tokyo

TOKYO (Agencies) — Jordan and Japan Sunday called for an international peace conference to bring about a durable and just peace to the Middle East with the participation of all concerned parties and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The call came in a statement that followed a meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita during which the two leaders reviewed world affairs with special attention to the Middle East conflict. The statement said that the two sides emphasized the need for a just and durable peace in imple-

mentation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 through the called-for international conference. Both sides voiced deep satisfaction with the East-West détente and the relaxed atmosphere that marks international relations and said this can help find solutions for all chronic problems, particularly the Middle East conflict, the statement said. Takeshita lauded the King's relentless efforts and endeavours and referred to the high esteem which King Hussein enjoys at the Arab and international levels, the statement said. It quoted Takeshita as voicing Japan's continued support for the King's efforts to achieve just and durable peace in the Middle East. King Hussein explained to the Japanese leader the aims of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), set up Feb. 16 in Baghdad, and referred with satisfaction to relations between Jordan and Japan. The statement said Takeshita pledged his country's readiness to promote cooperation with Jordan in all fields. Takeshita thanked King Hussein for taking part in the funeral of the late Emperor Hirohito. He also voiced appreciation for the invitation extended to him to visit Jordan and promised to make the visit in the near future. Also Sunday, the King met in Tokyo with the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Japan and briefed them on the latest developments in the Arab region. The King stressed that the economic groups set up in the Arab World were part of ongoing endeavours to attain solidarity and added that the ACC would remain open for any Arab state to join. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Jordan's ambassador to Japan.



HM King Hussein

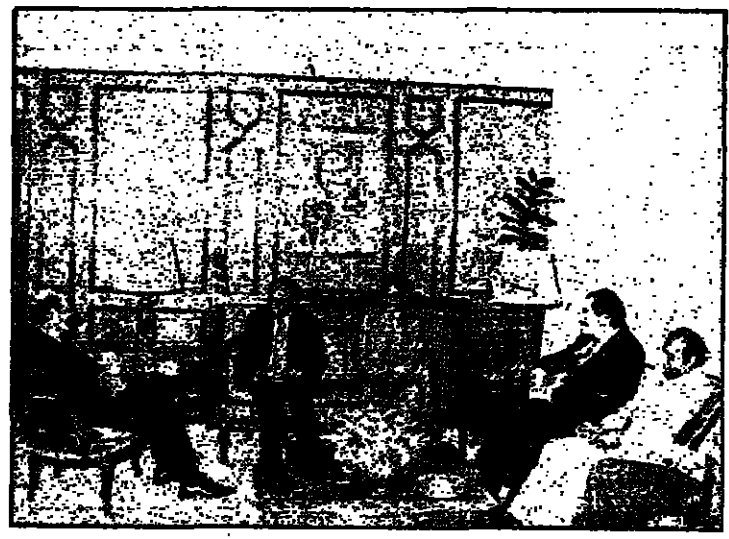


Noboru Takeshita

Rifai, Dali review developments, ACC

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and South Yemen Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali Sunday discussed Middle East developments and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which groups North Yemen, Iraq, Egypt and Jordan.

At the meeting, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Dali conveyed to Rifai South Yemen's congratulations on the creation of the ACC, which was proclaimed in Baghdad Feb. 16, and said this "unionist step constitutes another constructive move towards pan-Arab unity." Discussions during the meeting covered bilateral relations. A statement issued later said both sides agreed to set up a Joint Jordanian-South Yemeni Higher Committee to promote cooperation in economic, trade, cultural and other fields. Dali conveyed to Rifai an in-



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday confers with South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali in a meeting attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and members of a delegation accompanying Dali (Petra photo)

between Amman and Aden and increasing the volume of trade. Dali, who is accompanied on his visit by an official delegation, later called at health centres and pharmaceutical plants in Salt and specialists to either country to discuss further cooperation. The two sides reviewed legislation and regulations in force in the fields of maritime, land and air transport and stressed the need for overcoming difficulties in obstructing trade operations

Senate voices total support for ACC

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Sunday voiced total support for the newly-proclaimed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which groups Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen, and congratulated the heads of state of the four member states, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. Petra said the Senate expressed its stand in a meeting with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai at the Parliament House. The prime minister briefed the Senate on the objectives and principles of the ACC, which was established in a mini-summit of the four heads of state in Baghdad Feb. 16.

Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and Senate members voiced pride in the "unionist step, which embodies the dreams and aspirations of the Arab people for unity and solidarity," Petra said. They congratulated His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Egyptian Presi-

Khomeini blesses better Soviet ties, sermons Gorbachev

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini gave his blessing to better relations with Moscow Sunday and pressed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to contemplate eternity.

Tehran Radio said that in a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, believed to be the ayatollah's first one-to-one meeting with a visiting foreign minister, Khomeini delivered a short sermon for Gorbachev. Khomeini sparked a crisis in relations with the West earlier this month when he called on Muslims to kill British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy in his book "The Satanic Verses."

More than 100 Iranian parliamentary deputies called Sunday for debate on a bill to break diplomatic ties with Britain, which closed its Tehran embassy over the Rushdie affair. The debate was set for Tuesday. Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Shevardnadze as telling Khomeini: "Our conviction is that conditions are ripe for relations between our two countries to enter a qualitatively new stage of cooperation in all fields." The ayatollah replied: "Of course we want relations to develop, too." The radio broadcast 22 minutes of the meeting at Khomeini's home in north Tehran in which Shevardnadze, speaking through an interpreter, relayed a message from Gorbachev to Khomeini. Shevardnadze quoted Gorbachev as saying Moscow respected freedom of choice for nations and, while backing Iran's 1979 revolution, defended the Soviet system as the right choice for its own people despite "gross errors" in the past. But the radio said Khomeini expressed dissatisfaction at Gorbachev's treatment of the spiritual aspects of a message he sent him last month. Khomeini called in the message for the Kremlin

Palestinian women issue appeal

TUNIS (Petra) — The General Union of Palestinian Women Sunday called on all regional and international women federations and organisations and all human rights organisations to condemn "the organised terror practised by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories."

In a communique issued here, the federation's general secretariat called on the international community to intervene with a view to making "Israel listen to the voice of right and justice and to respond to the calls for achieving just, comprehensive and durable peace based on recognition of the Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil."

Israelis kill protester, arrest 150 in Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a 20-year-old protester in the Gaza Strip Sunday and arrested 150 West Bank Palestinians in connection with the killing of a soldier felled by a concrete block.

Hospital sources said Ahmad Abed Moham was shot in the heart during a violent protest in Gaza City. His death took the number of Palestinians killed in the 14-month-old uprising in the occupied territories to 393. In the West Bank city of Nablus, army chief of staff Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron said residents would pay dearly for the death of Binjamin Meisner, 24, killed Friday when a block was dropped on his head from a market roof. The army imposed a curfew on parts of Nablus for a third day, confining residents to their houses while soldiers looked for suspects. An army spokeswoman declined to say how many arrests

were made, but Palestinians said 150. Soldiers said Meisner, a reserve paratrooper, was chasing stone-throwers who pelted his patrol. Unknown persons dropped a 15-kilogramme concrete block on his head. In Gaza City, a masked assailant entered Shifa hospital and shot and lightly wounded its chief administrator, Abdul Raouf Helis. Residents said Helis was suspected of helping the Israeli occupation authorities. The assailant escaped. The Israeli Itim news agency said Helis was in charge of security at the hospital. Israeli radio said he personally guarded an Israeli medical officer at the hospital. The army, meanwhile, launched a new policy limiting access to Israel to Palestinian-owned vehicles from the occupied Gaza Strip by requiring all such automobiles and trucks to bear special green stickers, an Israeli spokes-

Regent meets Taiwanese team

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday met with a visiting trade and investment delegation from Taiwan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. During the meeting, which took place at Ajloun Community College, the Regent and the delegation, which began a five-day visit to Jordan Sunday, discussed cooperation between Jordan and Taiwan in various fields in the

Egg prices revised, market rules relaxed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply Sunday set new market prices for table eggs produced in Jordan and announced the arrival of the first consignment of frozen poultry meat imported from France to meet the needs of the local market. A statement issued by Minister of Supply Fawaz Tarawneh said the sale of eggs would no longer be confined to the Jordan Society for the Production and Marketing of Eggs. The statement set the new prices for each carton of 30 eggs:

Weight (grams)	Seal (colour)	Price for consumers
1,500	Black	800 fils
1,700	Blue	950 fils
1,900	Red	1,050 fils
1,950 and above	Green	1,100 fils

The statement also fixed the price of a kilogramme of frozen chicken at 750 fils and said that the price would be in force as of Monday, Feb. 27, 1989. According to the statement, the new prices reflect a rise of two fils per egg. It also set the price of maize at JD 73 per tonne bought from Aqaba and Irbid south of here and JD 78 per tonne if bought in Irbid. Tarawneh said the recent cold wave in Jordan brought about a higher cost of production of poultry meat represented in the price of heating coupled with the rise in the price of animal feed. The Ministry of Supply has concluded a contract with France to purchase 2,500 tonnes of poultry meat, of which 1,400 tonnes have already arrived and will be put on the market Tuesday. Tarawneh said the rest of the consignment was scheduled to arrive by March 16. The ministry has announced a new tender for the purchase of 2,000 tonnes of poultry meat which will be made available during the month of Ramadan which starts about April 6. The minister said the price of 750 fils a kilogramme of frozen chicken represents the cost.

Anti-Rushdie sentiments unabated

BOMBAY (Agencies) — Muslim groups called Sunday for a trade and business strike in India's tense commercial capital in protest against police shooting during a violent demonstration against controversial author Salman Rushdie.

Police said nine people were killed and 40 injured when they opened fire to control a 10,000-strong mob Friday but unofficial figures put the death toll at 12. "We are deeply hurt at the loss of young lives and we propose to register our protest through a trade strike," a spokesman for the Muslim Integration Council said. The council, a militant organisation formed last August to fight "enemies of Islam," called on Bombay's 1.5 to two million Muslims to strike next Friday. At least 16 people have been killed in India and Pakistan since Feb. 14 when Iran's spiritual

leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, declared Rushdie should be put to death for blaspheming against Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses."

Rushdie, a Bombay-born British citizen who lives in London, has been in hiding since the ayatollah issued his call. The imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid Mosque, Syed Abdullah Bukhari, who has endorsed Khomeini's death call, added his voice to demands for a judicial inquiry into the Bombay riot. Bukhari said he planned to go to Bombay Tuesday but it was not clear whether he would be allowed into the city. A year ago he was ordered to stay away after sectarian riots. Police said they had released more than 500 of the 800 people arrested over Friday's riot. In Tokyo, Japan's foreign minister told Iran's vice president Sunday that he hoped the "in-

tolerable" death threat against Rushdie would be rescinded, a Foreign Ministry official said. The official said Iran's death threat was a topic that dominated

1 killed in Karachi

KARACHI (R) — A bomb blast rocked the British council library in Karachi Sunday, killing a Pakistani guard, police said. Plainclothes police said they were investigating whether the blast was linked with widespread protests by Muslims against British author Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses." Police immediately increased security at the British and U.S. consulates in Karachi, witnesses said. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion.

a 20-minute meeting between Iran's Vice-President Mostafa Mir Salim and Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno. Takashi Onoda, head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East Affairs Bureau, said Uno stopped short of saying Japan would follow the example of its allies in Western Europe, who have withdrawn their top envoys from Tehran in protest. In Hong Kong, more than 1,500 Muslims attended a service Sunday at a mosque to protest "The Satanic Verses."

The Muslim community also placed full-page advertisements in Hong Kong's two English-language newspapers calling for the book to be banned in the territory. In a 15-minute talk, the imam of the Kowloon mosque, Mohammad Tayyib, told worshippers that Rushdie had written something absolutely untrue.

Afghan rebels claim 10,000 desertions

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan rebels claimed Sunday that three regiments, or about 10,000 communist troops, have defected to the Mujahadeen in northern Afghanistan.

Mohammad Shoaib, spokesman of the hardline Jamiat-Islami guerrilla group, said deserters from government garrisons in Takhar and Badakhshan provinces bordering the Soviet Union brought thousands of weapons and 90 military vehicles with them.

There was no independent confirmation of what could be the largest single defection in the decade-long war between U.S.-backed rebels and ruling communists in Kabul.

Shoaib said the government soldiers defected to Jamiat's famed northern field commander, Ahmad Shah Masood, known as the "Lion of the Panjshir" Valley.

The strategic Salang Highway, which runs north from the Afghan capital to the Soviet border, slices through an area largely under Masood's control.

Hundreds of people were reported killed in January when Soviet and Afghan planes bombed either side of the Salang, reportedly in retaliation for attacks by Masood on supply convoys into the Afghan capital.

Moscow ended nine years of military intervention in Afghanistan Feb. 15. Many of the departing troops travelled under heavy guard along the 400-kilometre road.

Shoaib said the government's northern garrisons, one of which was only 32 kilometres from the Soviet border, were abandoned the day after the last Soviet soldier crossed the Friendship Bridge linking the two countries.

"We don't know as of yet how it was started but commander

Masood may have had contact (negotiations) with the regiments," Shoaib said.

"It is a major defection. The biggest defection in the north," he added.

Another Jamiat field commander, Ismail Khan, claimed another 600 government soldiers defected Feb. 18 from the garrison town of Rubat Sangi near the western provincial capital of Herat.

Khan claimed enlisted men staged a mutiny by killing 15 of other superiors and wounding another 20. Two ammunition dumps and eight tanks were destroyed before the fighting ended. Khan reported to Jamiat headquarters in the northwestern Pakistani border city of Peshawar.

Most of Afghanistan's cities are under siege by rebels, whose stated strategy is to gradually erode the Kabul government's military machine until it collapses from within.

Guerrilla field commanders have said their fighters oppose major offensives against urban areas for fear of high civilian casualties.

The Afghan capital has been under siege for months, causing serious food and fuel shortages.

Afghan President Najibullah declared a state of emergency only three days after the Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan.

In an address Saturday broadcast on Afghanistan's state-run radio, he justified the state of emergency and claimed his military would hold out against rebels encircling the capital.

Najibullah strategy

Najibullah is seeking to recruit allies both inside and outside Afghanistan to his campaign to bring the guerrillas to the nego-

tiating table.

He told parliamentarians Saturday they had a responsibility to seek out guerrilla commanders in their districts and persuade them to lay down their weapons.

Najibullah also appealed to the world community for assistance in ending the 10-year-old conflict, calling for a new mechanism under the United Nations to bring peace.

Since the Soviet withdrawal was completed Feb. 15, Najibullah has unleashed a barrage of messages to foreign governments and international organisations calling for diplomatic help.

The rebels have rejected all possibility of talks with Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

To open negotiations would be to accept the status quo, in which the party controls the main organs of government, the armed forces, the capital Kabul, and all main cities, they say.

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency TASS reported that Najibullah met Soviet Ambassador Yuri Vorontsov, who informed him of his recent talks with various world leaders including Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Pope John Paul.

Vorontsov, Moscow's chief negotiator on Afghanistan, held several meetings with rebel leaders prior to the Soviet pullout to try to establish a broad-based coalition government, including members of the current Kabul administration.

Najibullah offered rebel commanders who set up their own local governments the opportunity to choose allegiance to the Afghan government or decide to act independently.

Radio Kabul said Najibullah claimed in his speech that Pakistan's government orchestrated the special council of Afghan



A woman member of the ruling party militia brandishes her automatic rifle while patrolling in Kabul. All party members have been called up following the declaration of the state of emergency last week.

Soviets brawl

Soviet veterans of the Afghan war, unable to buy rail tickets home at the border because of the crush of visitors welcoming them, brawled in front of a train station, injuring 16 people, four seriously.

Only no one bothered to do so. At least not the rail authorities.

It also reported that the coffins of the last 35 Soviet soldiers killed in the war were brought back to Tarmez only to remain for hours at a hospital because there was no vehicle to take them to a waiting aircraft.

A call to the local young Communist League finally produced a vehicle three hours later and the coffins were taken aboard the aircraft.

Last Saturday's edition of the newspaper Komsomolsky Uzbekistan, the latest to reach Moscow, said 150 soldiers set upon each other in the town of Tarmez Feb. 14, the eve of the departure of the last Soviet soldier from Afghanistan.

"How is it that after nine years of war it was not possible to lay on extra trains — at least for Feb. 15 — for the very end," the newspaper said.

"Of course it was possible.

Iran to hold presidential elections in August

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's fifth presidential election since the republic was proclaimed in 1979 will be held in August, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday.

That poll could be a key test of wills between so-called pragmatists in the Tehran hierarchy, who have been seeking constitutional reforms that would centralise power in the presidency, and hardline opponents who now appear to be backed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said that the exact date would be announced after coordination between the Interior Ministry and the Council of Guardians, a 12-member body that oversees legislation.

IRNA said Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi disclosed when the elections will be held in an interview published Saturday in Tehran's Kayhan daily.

President Ali Khamenei, the republic's third president who has been in office since 1981, cannot run for a third four-year term under the revolutionary constitu-

Hashemi Rafsanjani

tion.

Mohtashemi, a hardliner believed to have close links with extremists holding Western hostages in Lebanon, said he will not run.

But Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, leader of the so-called pragmatists seeking more liberalisation in Iran and closer links with the West, indicated earlier this month that he might be a candidate.

Asked in an interview with French television whether he would run, Rafsanjani said: "I have not yet decided. But it seems that I will have to be a candidate."

U.N. launching huge Sudan relief airlift

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations will launch a massive airlift to carry "a small avalanche" of food to Sudanese people threatened by famine before the rains cut off supply routes, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Director James P. Grant said Saturday.

"Millions of people are at risk in Sudan," which is ravaged by civil war, drought and crop failures, Grant told the Associated Press.

"One could certainly say that over 100,000 people will live or die; it depends on getting supplies pre-positioned in southern and central Sudan before the rains come and even planes are grounded" in May through November, Grant said. "It's really an unprecedented effort on this scale, to be done in such a short time frame under such difficult conditions."

Grant and other U.N. relief officials met at U.N. headquarters Saturday, where they decided an airlift of 80,000 tons of food was required to fend off mass starvation among four million Sudanese.

On March 6-9, Grant will lead a relief planning meeting of U.N. and private aid agencies in Khartoum at the invitation of Sudan's government.

No figure was available for the cost of the airlift and other elements of the relief campaign, but

in November the cost of meeting the most urgent needs was estimated at \$72.2 million, said Grant.

Relief operations have been crippled by the civil war between the government in the north, and a rebellion in the south by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"At the moment, however, supplies are moving to virtually all areas, but on a basis below the level needed to meet present needs, to say nothing about pre-positioning supplies for May through November," said the UNICEF chief.

"The government has concurred with International Committee of the Red Cross and UNICEF on allowing aid to the non-government areas, and this is now going on in a number of locations," said Grant.

"At the same time, very substantial tonnages are flowing into the southern cities of Juba and Wan, besieged by the opposition forces, and now supplies are flowing in by air uninterrupted, and unmolested."

"At the present time, all the principal parties are cooperating," he said. "In this sense, as we enter these final weeks, we have some very hopeful auguries of increasing the modest stocks of supplies into a small avalanche," Grant said.

Need for collective action

Continued from page 1

corporations in the district and called for exploring the possibility of establishing special fund that will be entrusted with granting competitive and long-term loans to farmers.

The Regent also stressed the need for establishing a citizen counselling centre which will guide citizens on how to deal with the credit corporations and to achieve conformity among similar institutions.

Prince Hassan highlighted the importance of vocational education and pointed out that the national educational reform plan has provided for expanding the manpower base.

The Regent underlined the need for a thorough survey of the district's touristic potential and

stressed the importance of shifting from improvisation to institutionalisation.

The Crown Prince called on participants to come up with practical recommendations that will be presented for discussion in March.

Participants in the seminar discussed recommendations and proposals concentrating on four major areas — social services, agriculture, local councils and tourism. Four working papers on these major areas were prepared by the Ajloun Development Council in cooperation with the Irbid Development Council, and will be debated by four separate committees, grouping senior government officials and representatives of the various sectors involved.

Tudeh party no threat to Tehran

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's leaders welcomed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Saturday confident that Moscow-backed Iranian communists are no longer a threat.

Iran Wednesday allowed the jailed first secretary of the banned communist Tudeh Party, Nouraddin Kianouri, to take part in a protest march and to address a gathering of newly-pardoned political prisoners in Tehran.

Kianouri, jailed six years ago after the arrest of Tudeh's key leaders, told the freed prisoners that in the early 1980s the Soviet Union ordered the party to form a united front with other opposition groups to topple the republic.

He said he instructed party members to recruit servicemen as spies in response to a Soviet request for information on sophisticated U.S. weapons used by the Iranian army.

Tehran's relations with Moscow chilled after Iran expelled 18 Soviet diplomats for spying in May 1983, following a sweep of the Tudeh leadership.

Hundreds of Tudeh members and sympathisers in the armed forces, government, universities, schools and factories were arrested later.

Several key Tudeh figures, including former navy commander Bahram Afzali, were executed in 1985 after being tried by revolutionary courts.

An exiled wing of the party based in Europe has accused the government of executing dozens of unrepentant party activists since last July.

The Tudeh Party became a major force in Iran in the 1940s and early 1950s. Its leaders fled to Eastern Europe after the 1953 coup which restored the Shah to power, returning 26 years later when the monarch was overthrown in the revolution.

Kianouri, along with chief theoretician Ehsan Tabari and several other Tudeh leaders, have since their arrest denounced Tudeh as a tool of the Kremlin and declared their conversion to Islam.

But Kianouri was not among those given amnesty in the Islamic republic's 10th anniversary celebrations earlier this month. Iranian officials said opposition groups were no longer a serious threat.

In his speech Wednesday, Kianouri said his party sold the support money it received from the Soviet Communist Party on the black market.

Iranian television showed Kianouri and other jailed party officials leading a march to the U.N. mission in Tehran Thursday to protest what the demonstrators said were biased reports of the U.N. Human Rights Commission on human rights abuses in Iran.

Rifai, Dali discuss ACC

Continued from page 1

discussed with officials plans for future cooperation.

In an interview with Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times later Sunday, Dali said his country was studying the possibility of joining the ACC. But, he said, a final decision by Aden to join the council is contingent upon reunification of North and South Yemen.

At the same time, he said, the formation of the council will give a new impetus to the unification efforts. He described recent agreements reached between

Aden and Sana'a as very important in the efforts and said the final form of the envisaged unity of the two countries will be comprehensive and not limited to economic integration.

Dali described the ACC and other Arab regional groupings as the forerunners of wider, comprehensive Arab alliance.

The minister said South Yemeni Head of State Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas will pay an official visit to Jordan soon and the issue of South Yemen's entry into the ACC would be one of the major topics for his discussions with His Majesty King Hussein.

Israelis kill Palestinian

Continued from page 1

the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Later Sunday, Israeli troops demolished the top floor of the building from which Palestinians allegedly dropped the block that killed the reservist Friday, an

army spokesman said.

Palestinians said troops blew up the entire three-storey building.

The army said troops also sealed the windows of houses that faced the alleyway in which the soldier was killed.

Government-in-exile — major step for Afghan rebels

By Michael Battye Reuters

ISLAMABAD — Despite the bitter feuding and rampant disunity among Afghan Mujahadeen rebels that preceded it, the creation of a government-in-exile should be a major step in their bid for power, Western diplomats said.

It took nearly two weeks of flare-ups and walkouts that depressed even the most ardent Western supporters of the Mujahadeen before a consultative council, or Shura, finally elected the government last week.

Eight Iran-based groups, nominally representing two million Afghan refugees, went home because they were given insufficient votes, leaving the job to seven bigger groups based in Pakistan.

Their departure left serious

questions over how much support from Afghans the government-in-exile would get if it took power from the still defiant government of President Najibullah in Kabul.

Even Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, the moderate finally elected president under a compromise party-based vote, admitted the Shura at best represented one-third of the Afghan population.

Most of the 440 Shura delegates seemed happy at the outcome, although there were dissident voices.

"All they have done is set up another puppet government," said one moderate who from the beginning had argued that the Shura was insufficiently representative to be taken seriously.

Western diplomats, while acknowledging it was not a perfect solution, said the gov-

ernment-in-exile was a major step forward.

"I think this was about the best we could hope for. The top party people are all there and it's fairly well balanced," said one.

"Considerable consequences flow from its creation," said another.

"Now the parties are each responsible for ministries and that should diminish quite considerably the competition between them and promote cooperation," he said.

Factional feuding, often leading to fighting inside Afghanistan, has plagued the Pakistan-based parties throughout their 10-year war against the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Most Afghan experts are now looking towards an end to the war, in which more than one million people may have

died, following the departure of the last 100,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan Feb. 15.

For nine years the Soviet army battled the Mujahadeen. Their departure leaves Najibullah's government fighting on alone.

Few of the experts believe Kabul can survive. Many Western diplomats, however, are revising their opinions on how long it will take to fall.

There is less talk of Kabul falling within weeks of the Soviet withdrawal and more of the capital and other major Afghan cities Najibullah still controls holding out for months.

"Actually that could be a good thing in a way because it gives the (Mujahadeen) government time to get organised properly," said one.

Many Afghan experts fear

that as the war comes to an end feuding could escalate and lead to the "Lebanonisation" of a country deeply divided on ethnic, tribal, religious and political lines.

The Western diplomats argued that the existence of the government-in-exile should diminish those fears.

"With the coming end of the war there is going to be a lot more emphasis on humanitarian aid rather than military," said one.

"Most, if not all, Western aid is going to be channelled through the Mujahadeen government and they are going to be under a lot of pressure to use it properly. That means they are going to have to work together," he said.

"Now they have a government structure and that is very important indeed," the diplomat said.

Much, however, still depends on whether the Mujahadeen commanders inside Afghanistan accept the government.

Some are loyal to their party leaders but others show scant respect to men they accuse of playing games in the comfort of Pakistan while guerrillas are dying.

Many commanders, whose guerrillas control most of the Afghan countryside, have well-established administrations of their own and no one is prepared to guarantee they will hand them over happily to the government-in-exile.

"But the commanders put a lot of pressure on the politicians to come up with a government at the Shura and I think its reasonable to believe that the major commanders will go along with it," a diplomat said.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
17:10	High Mountain Rangers
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	World News
18:20	Arabic series
19:15	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:35	Programme review
21:45	Monday Forum
22:30	Variety Show
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Variety show (cont.)
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Le Monde est à Vous
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sport magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Variety
20:30	Allo Allo
21:10	Jack and Mike
22:00	News in English
22:30	Jewel in the Crown
PRAYER TIMES	
04:45	Fajr
06:02	(Sunrise) Duha
11:49	Dhuhr
15:02	Asr

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
17:34	Maghreb
18:51	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church. Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Saide Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will continue to be warm with the appearance of some medium and high	

Garlic	240 / 200	17:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)
Cauliflower	220 / 180	18:10	Buenos Aires, Tunis (RJ)
Lemon/lime	280 / 240	18:30	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
Lettsuce (per one)	150 / 100		Bangkok (RJ)
Marrow (large)	350 / 300	Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
Marrow (small)	650 / 550	09:20	Sana'a (LH)
Orange (Shamout)	460 / 400	09:30	Cairo, Agaba (MS)
Orange (local)	330 / 300	12:15	Baghdad (IA)
Onion (dry)	200 / 170	12:30	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GP)
Onion (green)	220 / 180	20:50	Paida (AF)
Pepper (hot)	880 / 880	DEPARTURES	
Pepper (sweet)	420 / 400	Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
Potato	320 / 280	(Terminal 1)	
Spinach	100 / 60	06:55	Agaba (RJ)
Mandarin	540 / 460	11:30	Buenos Aires, Montreal, New York (RJ)
Tomatoes	150 / 100	11:45	Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
FOR THE TRAVELLER			
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT			
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)52200-5, where it should always be verified.			
ARRIVALS			
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)			
09:10	Agaba (RJ)	06:30	Cairo, London (BA)
09:30	Cairo (RJ)	06:15	Beirut (MS)
09:35	Sana'a (RJ)	10:15	Frankfurt (LH)
09:40	Kuwait (RJ)	10:25	Cairo (MS)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	13:30	Baghdad (IA)
10:45	Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)	13:30	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah (GP)
16:45	Cairo (RJ)	21:50	Baghdad (AF)

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ART EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid Sunday opened an art exhibition held at Al Qadisiyyah College by the artists Mohammed Baita and Muzira Al Tounissyah, reflecting the Jordanian environment and nature, in addition to a number of wild plants in Jordan. (Petra)

QASEM HOSTS DINNER FOR DALL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi Sunday hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Foreign Minister of South Yemen, Abdul Aziz Al Dall, and his accompanying delegation. The dinner was attended by a number of cabinet members, senior Jordanian officials and the heads of the diplomatic corps in Jordan. (Petra)

ASSAD ARRIVES IN CAIRO: Minister of Education Nassereddin Al Assad Sunday arrived in Cairo on a several day visit to Egypt, during which he will take part in the 55th session of the Academy of Arabic, due to convene in Cairo Monday. (Petra)

MALHAS CHAIRS DAMASCUS TALKS: Health Minister Zahair Malhas Sunday chaired a meeting in Damascus for the Higher Committee of the Arab Council for Medical Specialisations, during which the committee discussed the secretary general's annual report and approved the council's budget. (Petra)

EGYPTIAN YOUTH MINISTER LEAVES: Egyptian Minister of Youth and Chairman of the Higher Council of Youth and Sports Abdul Ahad Jumaldeen left for home Sunday at the end of his four-day official visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and held talks with Minister of Youth Awad Khelefat. The talks resulted in the signing of a bilateral agreement, paving the ground for mutual cooperation in youth and sports affairs. (Petra)

CANADIAN RECEPTION: Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell Sunday held a reception in honour of a delegation representing the Canada-Arab Business Council. The reception was attended by senior government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

WORKSHOP ON POPULATION COMMUNICATION: A day-long workshop on evaluation of population communication material was held at the Yarmouk University with 24 specialised communicators representing the various information and communication institutions attending. The workshop, organised by the Yarmouk University's Mass Communication Department in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, aims to promote the knowledge about population issues and to utilise the findings of the communication campaigns to develop special curricula on population communication for use as disciplines at the university. (Petra)

Canadian team willing to invest in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A technology, trade and investment delegation, representing the Ottawa-based Canada-Arab Business Council (CABC) Sunday voiced willingness to launch investment projects in Jordan, especially in the field of the transfer of modern technology, and through joint ventures with the Jordanian private sector.

The delegation's leader Samir Zalzal, who is vice president of Ingersoll Rand Canada and chairman of CABC, made the statement at a meeting Sunday with Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa and said that the investment climate in Jordan is very convenient for joint projects and certain industries.

Zalzal said that investment in projects in Jordan can open the way for regional offices for Canadian businesses both in the country and in the Middle East region.

Tabbaa briefed the delegation members on the incentives offered by the Jordanian government to encourage investors launch projects in the country, and explained the very flourishing relations between Jordan, Arab and foreign countries in economic and trade fields.

Tabbaa welcomed initiatives by Canadian investors in industry and technology and noted that Jordanian law grants investors the right to transfer their capital and profits freely in and out of the country.

He said that registration procedures for any industrial project in Jordan are done through the minimum of formalities and take very short time to complete. This is done to help investors embark on their projects within the shortest possible time.

The CABC — consisting of over 50 prominent Canadian private sector firms active in the Middle East region — is the largest trade association in Canada, directing efforts at the expansion of corporate interest in the Arab World.

The delegation includes senior officials of the Department of External Affairs in Canada, as well as the province of Ontario, in addition to 13 representatives of the Canadian private sector.

The objective of the delegation's visit is to examine prospects for technology transfer, joint venture and trade opportunities with key Jordanian public and private sector interlocutors for both domestic and regional application.

In another development, the Canadian Richmond Corporation Saturday signed an agreement with the Health Ministry to provide a study on the basic needs of five health centres operated by the ministry.

The study is designed to help develop the efficiency and skill of the staff and promote management with a view to providing better health care services. A Canadian development programme has pledged to finance the \$114,000 study.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An art exhibition by Paul and Emmanuel Guiragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shuman Foundation.
- The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wastil Gallery.
- An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Adnan Yahya at Alia Art Gallery.
- An exhibition of paintings by French artist Francoise Petrovitch at the French Cultural Centre.
- An archaeological mobile exhibition on Tel Abu Hamid archaeological settlement at the University of Jordan.
- The Polish contemporary art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition entitled "The Icebreaker" which includes showing a film about the activities of a Swedish icebreaker and the environment surrounding it, a photo exhibition and a radio programme at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- An exhibition on geology and development plans in Jordan which includes samples of rocks, minerals, fossils and raw material manufactured in Jordan, at the Yarmouk University.
- An art exhibition by Mohammad Baita and Muzira Al Tounissyah at Al Qadisiyyah College.
- The Iraqi children's exhibition which includes 100 paintings by Iraqi children and an exhibition of children's books at Zarqa Comprehensive School for Boys.
- The Yemeni national heritage exhibition which includes Yemeni costumes, handicrafts, photos and books at the Yarmouk University.

SYMPOSIUM

- A symposium on environmental pollution at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, the University of Jordan — 9:00 a.m. — 1 p.m.

LECTURES

- A lecture by Prof. Dr. Takeshi Hayashi of Daito Shinko University entitled Japanese Economy and Technology: For a New International Collaboration at the Mechanical Engineering Dept., the Royal Scientific Society — 12 noon.
- A lecture entitled Science and Crime by Nouruddin Khair at the Biology Auditorium, the University of Jordan — 12 noon.

Yarmouk students hold rally to support ACC

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University Sunday organised a rally and a festival in cooperation with the Students Association to voice support for the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) proclaimed in Baghdad on Feb. 16.

Among the speakers were the dean of the Students' Affairs Department, Khaled Al Omari, a student representing the Students Association and another representing North Yemeni students at the university.

The speakers said that Feb. 16 is a historic date for the Arab nation since it brought them one step nearer to their aspired unity.

The rally was followed by a performance of Jordanian and North Yemeni folk dances and songs.

Among those present was University President Mohammad Hamdan and deans of various departments.

Tabbaa meets Swedish team

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa met Sunday with a visiting Swedish investment delegation and discussed the prospect of launching joint Swedish-Jordanian development schemes in the Kingdom.

Tabbaa briefed the delegation members on Jordan's five-year development plan and the projects that could be implemented within that plan.

He also explained investment incentives in Jordan and guarantees provided by the Jordanian law to investors in the Kingdom, especially in industries, and the freedom of transferring capital in and out of the country.

The Swedish delegation leader explained the aims of the visit and said that his group represents a consortium of companies which can help Jordanian companies facing trouble to overcome their present difficulties.

IRAQI CHILDREN'S DRAWING EXHIBITION: Director of Zarqa Education Department Sunday opened the first Iraqi Children's Drawing Exhibition and the Iraqi book exhibition, held at Zarqa Comprehensive Secondary School. The exhibitions were organised by the Zarqa Education Department in cooperation with the Iraqi embassy's press department. (Petra)

'Jordan to play prominent role in Canadian-Arab trade ties'

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The trade and investment delegation of the Canada-Arab Business Council (CABC) predict a prominent role for Jordan in Canadian-Arab trade relations.

"Jordan could be more than a transit point, (it could be) an assembly point (for many Arab states)," said head of the 16 member delegation, Samir Zalzal, during a press conference Sunday.

Zalzal pointed out that Jordan does not only have the advantage of an educated manpower, "but, opens the doors to Iraq and Egypt."

The newly formed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) "will encourage more trade with the markets of Yemen, Egypt and Iraq," he said.

Moreover, the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar, "should further encourage Canadian investors and trade (between the two countries)," Zalzal said.

He added that since Jordan has

a limited market of three million people, the CABC "will be looking for more than just exports to Jordan," citing technology transfer and joint ventures as the two most promising possibilities.

For most members of the delegation, this is their first trip to Jordan, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Therefore, "no specific projects have been agreed to," said Zalzal, adding that the CABC is optimistic for future projects and is looking at the Jordanian market "with a long term perspective."

"We want to become Canada's vehicle for transferring technology," he said.

The delegation, which arrived here Friday, has met with Jordanian businessmen. The delegation includes representatives of the Canadian private sector, including petroleum and natural gas training services, specialty food manufacturers, agro-industry development, telecommunication systems technology, railway and transportation design and engineering services, health care services and vocational training programmes.

The trade mission's role is not

Symposium on environmental pollution begins

Khatib: Pollution, deforestation adversely affecting the world

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A symposium on environmental pollution got under way at the University of Jordan Sunday with the aim of spreading awareness among specialists and members of the public on the dangers of pollution, ways of handling such dangers as well as means of protecting the environment.

Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Al Khatib said chemical pollution, "human pollution" and deforestation were adversely affecting the world.

"The major problem is the increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere," Khatib told participants, adding that 50 per cent of that pollutant was produced by the burning of fossil fuel in energy production. 25 per cent of the other half is produced by industrial plants and the rest is a result of deforestation.

Khatib said the increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was causing the "green house" effect, warming up of the earth, a process which

if, continued, would lead to the melting of ice and the eventual flooding of parts of the world inhabited by people.

"We are manipulating the environment but with a major difference in this case... we are now in the test tube," Khatib warned. "In order to ensure that this experiment does not have a detrimental effect on humans, we have to control it by limiting the amount of carbon dioxide in the air."

Khatib said a team of experts from the Swedish environmental protection board had recently conducted a study on pollution in Jordan, with a report on that study expected to be out soon. "We will have to work hard to ensure that no chemical pollution from industry takes place in Jordan," he asserted.

Regarding "human pollution," Khatib asserted that "authorities cannot do much... It is a matter which society has to fight." He pointed out however that by international standards, Jordan was "relatively clean."

In his opening address, Dr. Mahmoud Allawi, chairman of the symposium's organising committee, said the idea behind the symposium was to initiate and establish close cooperation and open a "scientific dialogue" between specialists in environmental matters in West Germany and Jordan.

The symposium, he said, is aimed at highlighting the main pollutants in air, water and food, identifying their route of entry, dangers, the biotransformations and modes of action, in addition to their toxicities and carcinogenicity.

CABC consists of over 50 prominent Canadian private sector firms, and is the largest trade association in Canada, directing its efforts at the expansion of corporate interest in the Arab World.

Since CABC's establishment in 1983, it has also held regular council meetings, seminars and trade promotional events to provide up to date information on Canadian trade with the Arab countries.

At their meeting here Saturday, Mohammad Haimi, chairman of Yemenia; Nouruddin Al Safi, chairman of Iraqi Airways and Royal Jordan (RJ) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour recommended the establishment of a unified civil

Allawi argued that scientific information was necessary if studies are to be conducted to prove either the absence or presence of any hazardous pollutants. He expressed hope that further analysis and gathering of additional data would enable experts to interpret research results that can be considered as the basis for decision-making for the next symposium in 1990.

Also addressing the opening session of the symposium was University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali who called "regrettable" the fact that humanity was "indifferent to the vast volume of environmental pollution, steadily on the increase day after day."

The threat of pollution has extended to the whole globe, he said, adding that "we all bear witness to the fact that the atmosphere, the water resources and food are terribly contaminated."

Majali expressed hope that the University of Jordan would, in the near future, serve as a nucleus for a specialised centre for the protection of the environment against the hazards of pollution.

During the morning session, Dr. Arafat Al Tamimi, vice president for industrial affairs at the Royal Scientific Society, delivered his presentation on "the concept of a national research centre for environmental studies in Jordan."

His presentation included reference to the Kingdom's economic growth, the spillover effects of economic recession in Middle East oil states and other factors which lead to very high annual gross national product (GNP) growth rates.

Tamimi felt these rates will continue and possibly even accelerate, due to planned investments in mining, industry, agriculture and tourism.

In his conviction, the emergence of environmental problems in Jordan was a result of the rapid economic growth and population increase, especially in the absence of a comprehensive environ-

mental protection law or a specialised department vested with authority to monitor and protect the environment from pollution and ecological erosion.

Source water resources, Tamimi believes, were exposed to pollution and misuse. Agricultural land — no more than six per cent of the total area of Jordan — suffered deterioration and soil erosion as a result of uncontrolled urban growth and green cover diminution.

Wildlife, he argued, was threatened with extinction while air pollution was on the increase. Disorganised mining, he added threatened to deprive various parts of the Kingdom of their beauty.

Furthermore, Tamimi believes that Amman has begun to show problems of air quality, water and waste management, traffic congestion and noise pollution. Efforts to decentralise growth through national planning, he said, may merely distribute these negative effects over a wider area, threatening Jordan's landscape, wildlife areas and cultural resources.

Tamimi is convinced that growth without environmental management may eventually undermine economic goals such as a decline in tourism as environmental amenities and cultural antiquities are lost to development.

During the Monday morning session, participants will discuss the issues of "environmental pollution with pesticides," the situation of pesticides residues in the Jordanian environment, "polyaromatic hydrocarbons: a pollutant in air, food, drinking water and cigarette smoke."

In the afternoon session, participants will discuss the issue of occupational exposure to heavy metals in Jordan, in addition to air pollution monitoring and industrial gases.

The Goethe Institute as well as the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation also contributed to the organisation of symposium.

Haj Hassan receives recommendations for unified ACC civil aviation council

AMMAN (J.T.) — Recommendations and tentative agreements reached here in talks between national airlines of Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan were relayed Sunday to Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

At their meeting here Saturday, Mohammad Haimi, chairman of Yemenia; Nouruddin Al Safi, chairman of Iraqi Airways and Royal Jordan (RJ) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour recommended the establishment of a unified civil

aviation council for the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states and to consider air travel between them as part of domestic flights.

The creation of a unified council for the ACC member states, is bound to serve the ACC objectives of enhancing economic and touristic relations among its members, Haj Hassan said at the meeting.

The minister lauded existing relations between Jordan and each of the other three ACC

members and said that any agreement between them in transport affairs is bound to serve the ACC's common goal.

Haj Hassan paid tribute to the three airlines efforts and said the recommendations ought to be put into force.

The recommendations, which will be relayed later to the Egyptian side, followed talks that centred on means of promoting coordination among the four countries in civil aviation and air transport.

FAO meeting begins on regional agrarian reform, development

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Syria and Pakistan will gather in Amman Tuesday for a board meeting of the regional centre on agrarian reform and rural development set up by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The three-day meeting organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development will discuss the implementation of resolutions passed by a FAO meeting held in Rome in 1979.

The Amman based regional centre was established by FAO in 1983 to promote regional cooperation in rural development in the Near East region and to provide countries of the region

with specialised services in agrarian reform and rural development.

The centre is also concerned with research projects in rural development and in organising seminars and conferences for

policy makers, researchers, executives and planners at the regional level, to promote the exchange of expertise among countries of the Near East region in areas related to agrarian reform and rural development.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

An International Hotel Management Group has the following vacancies for Jordanian Personnels.

- Food & Beverage Manager**
Applicants should have — Hotel Management degree — 5 years experience in F&B — Strong personality — Good command of English language, Arabic, a third language is an asset.
- Sales Manager**
Applicants should have — University degree in B.A. or Hotel Management. — 5 years experience in Sales & Marketing in tourism business. — Good command of English, Arabic, a third language is an asset. — Strong personality.
- Sales Executive Male / Female**
Applicants should have — University degree — 3 years experience in Sales or Public relations. — Strong personality. — Good command of English, Arabic, a third language is an asset.

Note: Salaries according to qualifications. All applications will be treated as strictly confidential. Please contact the Personnel Manager, Telephone No. 663100 for an interview.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Backtracking on 242?

IN THE wake of His Majesty King Hussein's interview with the American television network, Cable News Network (CNN), Saturday in which he reminded all those who cared to hear that there was no need for any new initiative to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict since there was already an initiative in the form of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, painstakingly articulated and adopted with the consent of all the parties to the conflict as well as by the international community, the ears of the world must be tuned once again to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to discern whether the old Israeli commitment to that resolution is still there to count on. Not only Israel had affixed its seal of approval to that resolution some twenty years ago, it also sang the 242 song with the rest of the international chorus for as long as one can remember. And when it was time to implement that resolution on the strength of the follow up Security Council Resolution 338 which called for an international conference for that purpose, Israel started its well-known tradition of foot dragging to frustrate the process of executing that eventful international judgment.

Obviously the best way for Israel to derail the process of implementing 242 is to nip it in the bud by refusing an international mechanism for its enforcement. Such consistent Israeli tactics would cast doubt on Israel's sincerity in accepting Resolution 242, and it looks like it has been talking the Arab side as well as the international community for a ride all along. Otherwise, Israeli leaders would have no trouble entertaining any meaningful methodology that aims to implement that resolution. Clearly Israel has yet to reconcile itself to the principle of withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in the war of 1967; and it seems also that its initial acceptance of the resolution was tactical rather than strategic. Accordingly, every time the Arab side seeks to collect on that resolution, successive Israeli governments would throw all kind of red herrings in their path.

This is the fundamental message that the Arab parties would like the new American administration to comprehend. As long as Washington is also marking time in its attitude towards the peace process in the Middle East and as long as the U.S. associates itself with the Israeli tactics that aim to frustrate the will of the international community to affect an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories, the Arab World also has cause to question Washington's commitment to Resolution 242.

Yet there is no escape for either Israel or the U.S. from the biting teeth of Resolution 242 which has been effectively incorporated into the corpus of international customary law. Both countries would be flirting with lawlessness not to mention international and regional insecurity if they continue to brush aside the call of the international community to go full speed ahead in the only operational way to implement the resolution, i.e., the convening of an effective international conference sooner than later.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Sunday discussed George Bush's statement at a press conference held in Tokyo in which he referred to the recent developments in the Middle East and prospects for a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper said that it seems that Bush prefers to take his time and think matters over before embarking on any initiative related to the Middle East crisis. Bush said that Washington is keen to ensure the security of Israel and the Arabs at the same time and therefore matters could not be rushed and ample time should be given for the administration in Washington to reach a formula acceptable to the parties involved in the issue, the paper noted. It said that this attitude however, contradicts that of the Soviet Union whose foreign minister has said that time should not be wasted and that the international conference must be convened as soon as possible to reach solution. Thus we can see a clear difference between Washington's and Moscow's views with regard to the Middle East issue, an unfavourable development to the Arabs who advocate a speedy solution through an international conference to help put an end to the Palestinian people's sufferings, the paper added. Peace in our region, it said, does not need more initiatives but rather close cooperation among the U.N. Security Council members and serious action to end the conflict.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the U.S. and Soviet Union's roles in dealing with the Middle East problem. Tareq Masarweh says that the U.S. has not objected to Moscow's new bids in the region but Israel has stated again that the Soviet Union should not have any role before Moscow restores ties with Tel Aviv. The writer believes that the United States and its Zionist ally are playing tactics in this affair and at a time when the Middle East is badly in need of security and stability. Masarweh says that as long as the U.S.-Israeli alliance exists the Arabs are forced to seek the help of the Europeans and the Japanese as well as the Soviets to bring about a balance. Indeed Shamir realises that the United States is a close ally of Israel and the new administration in the White House has not changed policies drawn up by the former administration and therefore Shamir is assured of continued American support for his atrocities and his total rejection of peace bids, the writer notes. He says that the situation is so critical in our region and the international situation is so sensitive requiring a unified Arab stand in the face of all eventualities.

Al Dustour daily commented on King Hussein's statement to U.S. television network CNN in which the King described the situation in the Middle East as extremely volatile requiring speedy action. The paper echoed the King's call for a solution to the Palestine problem through an international Middle East conference for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and urged Israel to listen to reason and revise its position. Placing obstacles in the path of peace and the projected conference, the paper noted, can by no means help the cause of peace in this troubled region. It added that Israel's drive to draw a wedge between the Palestinians living under Israeli rule and those in the diaspora can never succeed but is bound to increase tension in the Middle East.

Weekly Political Pulse

Give Gorbachev time, support

THERE is a growing American speculation that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika is in deep trouble and that is making him very vulnerable politically. Some are even betting that his political survival rate is not very high and that soon he could be replaced by orthodox and traditional Communist leadership. What prompts Americans to such gloomy prognosis about President Gorbachev's political future and fortunes is his inability thus far to deliver on his much acclaimed promises of a brighter materialistic and intellectual future for the Soviet Union. Accordingly, the advice that President George Bush is getting these days is not to count too much on Gorbachev's continued success and not to formulate long range policies on the basis of his continued political well-being. That would explain some of the reasons why the U.S. wants to go slow in articulating its policies towards the Soviet Union including its position on issues touching on disarmament between the two superpowers and the overall matter of detente presumably governing Moscow-Washington relations forever after.

That Soviet perestroika is in deep quagmire is no secret. The Soviet people have yet to feel and sense much difference since the onset of the policy of restructuring the new Soviet system. Over three years have passed since the introduction of the Gorbachevian reformation era, yet there is little to show for it. Many reasons could be submitted to explain this much ado about little phenomenon associated with Gorbachev's white revolution:

First, the time factor. The passage of only three years on the contemporary reforms in the Soviet Union is hardly a reasonable time to allow for its penetration in all the vistas of Soviet life. It

must be realised that the Soviet system before Gorbachev was such a traditional and orthodox system of government and economy that it would take more than three years to mend its fossilised ways. Old traditions die hard; and in the case of Soviet Communism, a creature of eight decades old, the traditions associated with will die even harder.

Second, any reformation policy that comes from the top rather than from a grass roots level, would encounter natural barriers and hardship. The formative years of the Soviet Communist system were shaped nearly nine decades ago and all Soviet walks of life were deeply affected by such character-forming years. It would be naive therefore to expect a "sudden" change in various aspects of Soviet life as most of these aspects have hardened too much over the years.

Then there is of course the internal enemies of the reformation ideas of President Gorbachev who have developed vested interests in the old ways and status quo. The old system offered clear ways that were not amenable to deviation or to more than one interpretation. Thus life under the old regime was "simpler" as the choices were limited and predetermined in red and white terms.

Also the enemies of the wind of change from without, of course, feel threatened by any hint that their adversary has changed colour. They got used to see matters in absolute terms and in black and white terms. They feel confused and bewildered by speculations that the premises of their conflict with their enemy number one have been diluted or undermined by the offers of change from within. Again what we have here is a group of

diehards who have acquired vested interests in the continuation of the status quo intellectually and materially. And when one adds all these factors together what emerges from the contemporary Soviet scene is a corrective course that is beleaguered from within and without.

Perhaps all these reasons are of a negative nature. A more positive explanation to what is going wrong now in the Soviet perestroika could be found in the proposition that the Soviet reformation is half hearted and does not go far enough to start bearing the kind of fruit that the Soviet citizenry is impatiently waiting for. By adopting a measured, lukewarm and hesitant corrective course, the Soviet leader may have wanted to avoid a confrontation with his enemies on all fronts. But by opting for such a slow pace he also risks losing all. To be sure that Soviet leadership is facing a dilemma: If they go fast they risk a brisk confrontation with traditional forces. But by going slowly they also stand to irk the Soviet people, who have developed high expectations, could turn sour if their expectations were not fulfilled.

To develop grass roots support for his new innovative ideas, President Gorbachev has really no choice but to go all the way and at full speed. Otherwise the ship he is steering cannot face up to the counter currents confronting it. Also by going all the way the enemies of the Soviet new experiment would have that much less ammunition to attack it with. The best way to pull the rug from under the feet of all the forces hostile to Soviet reformation or those who prefer to question or about it is to go full speed ahead. The Soviet leadership has yet to resolve this issue.

Japan, Western Europe no longer automatically follow U.S.

By Claus-Dieter Frank-
enberger

AMERICA'S role in the world is changing because the world is changing. This inevitably affects transatlantic relations and the relationship between the United States and Japan.

The climate has become rougher and the difference more sharply defined.

The partnership which has evolved during the post-war period no longer functions smoothly.

As the East-West conflict is apparently losing its formative influence on international politics and further steps towards disarmament are within reach, the clamp of common security is no longer as tight as it used to be. America's nuclear shield is gradually being dismantled. This explains why Washington's claim to leadership in the Western triad is no longer automatically accepted.

The new self-confidence of the Europeans and the Japanese, based on economic growth and impressive productivity, finds its expression in dissent.

Political and economic "pin-pricking" as well as threatening gestures and display behaviour are annoying the Americans.

Sometimes, it looks as if there are no more fields in which wholehearted agreements could be reached, whether in economic, monetary, trade, development or security policies.

The interests — or what each side regards as its interests — differ too widely. America can no longer demand support, for example, of its trade policy, by wagging its diplomatic finger at the security policy dependencies of the Western alliance partners, especially those on the borderline of the East-West conflict.

"As the East-West conflict is apparently losing its formative influence on international politics and further steps towards disarmament are within reach, the clamp of common security is no longer as tight as it used to be. America's nuclear shield is gradually being dismantled. This explains why Washington's claim to leadership in the Western triad is no longer automatically accepted."

The latter have been pursuing a detente policy orientated towards a balance with the East bloc for some time now. The importance they attach to the military instrument is diminishing.

The sense of military interdependence is gradually declining. This explains the conflict-laden nature of competition in the economic field.

During the Reagan era America repeatedly criticised Europe's refusal to cooperate and tried to punish its stance by turning to unilateralism.

As America cannot use its strength in the agricultural sector, for example, to put pressure on the European and Japanese markets, the populist leaning towards retaliation flourishes.

Partners become rivals who openly threaten each other with the big stick of protectionism and stand by and look at the system of free world trade becomes

fears that Europe's continuing economic integration will erect new barriers by the end of 1992 (Fortress Europe).

Japan is the dominant economic power in the Pacific Basin area and in South-East Asia.

Washington seeks its salvation in regional trade agreements. There is a growing risk of a parcelling out of world trade and a politicisation of international trade policy.

The European Community has grown out of its role as junior partner to the Americans.

Its status improvement goes hand in hand with a diminution of the significance of the United States, not in all but in many fields.

An exaggerated flexing of muscles, however, is superfluous and only covers up the often narrow-minded motives behind dismissing Washington's views.

The American demands for a fairer distribution of the defence burdens of the Western alliance fall on deaf ears.

The criticism of the U.S. budget and trade deficits, while failing to mention the ensuing benefits for European and Japanese export industries, is a clear case of operating double standards.

A more careful fostering of relations in the Western triad is urgently needed. Otherwise, the mutual dependence will constantly run the risk of being strained to breaking point.

Trade, monetary and security policies require management by the seven leading industrial nations, within the framework of the GATT or in the Western alliance, orientated to the common objective of an economically stable and militarily safe world.

This is the major task facing the Bush administration; it needs partners to stand a real chance of success. This is not going to be easy. America must acknowledge the limits to its own scope of action.

When George Washington became president of the United States 200 years ago he gazed upon a "sea of difficulties."

He was not mistaken to believe that his fellow Republicans at that time, who now represent the interests of their constituencies and states in Congress, would not tolerate any form of autocratic rule.

Washington invested great effort in the inward consolidation of the young nation; zeal and the self-confidence strengthened during the Revolution still had their effect.

The nation turned full of hope, but also with cautious restraint, to the West and, bowing to reason, vigilantly to the East.

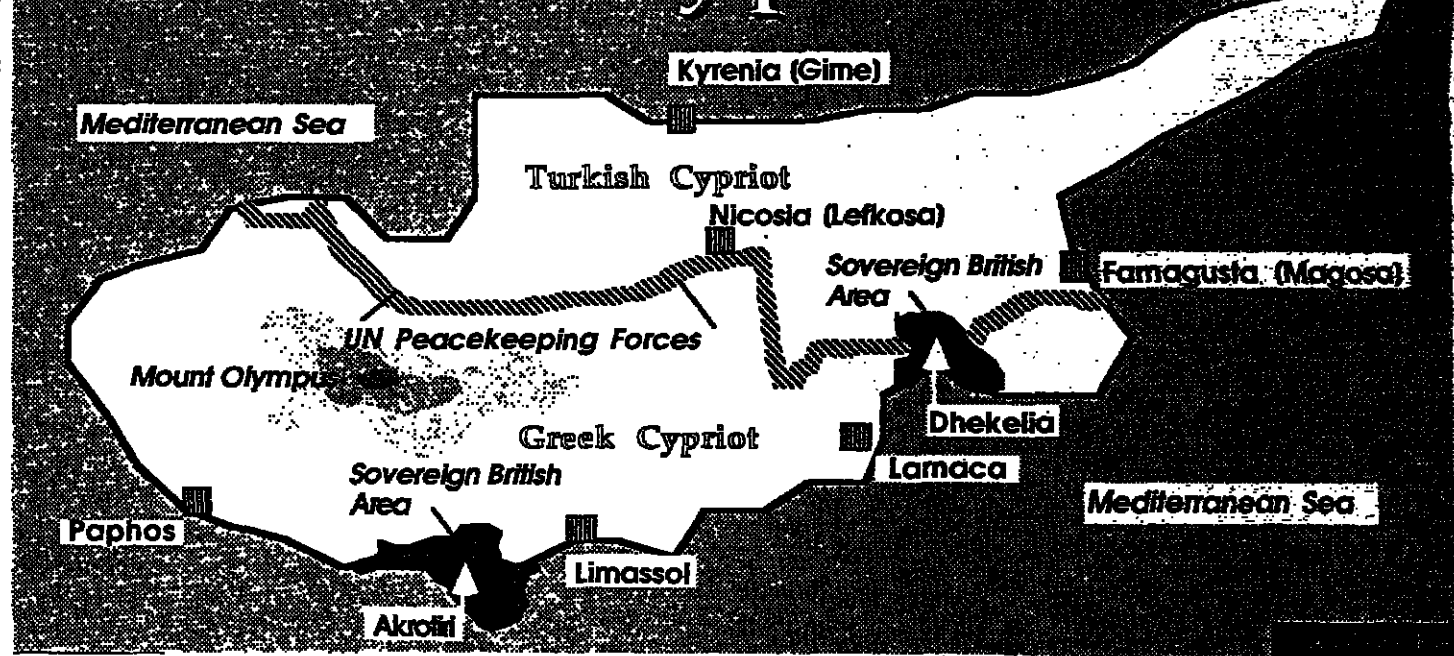
Washington let the experiment America mature in the normalcy of a democratic polity of state.

A country separated from the world's hostilities by the oceans turned into an expansive superpower with worldwide interests. The ways and means of their assertion, however, are disappearing fast.

Under Bush America will have to redefine its role in the world. Europe and Japan also share responsibility for its prosperity.

Drifting apart would be detrimental to all concerned — Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland.

Divided Cyprus



Games of power in Cyprus

By Sajid Rizvi

LONDON — For several years now Cyprus has served as the haven for assorted refugees fleeing mayhem in Lebanon, the now stilled ferment in the Gulf and economic hardship in mainland Turkey's lower provinces. Not surprisingly therefore it's often been seen as the cliched island of stability.

But that it is not. Amid the fanfare over the latest round of (inconclusive) reconciliation talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities on the island, formerly the majority and minority in a Cypriot nation state, the two sides' propensity for death-dealing conflict was forgotten. Cypriots have not always talked; they have been to war often enough and at each other's doorstep in all too frequent intercommunal murders of the innocent.

It's therefore useful to remember that while it prospers erratically under the Mediterranean sun, attracting dollars, dirhams, dinars, riyals and the sterling, Cyprus is a heavily militarised island where opposing forces confront each other, ready to dispel that aura of peace faster than it takes to shout "Help!" Not much of a deterrent is it, however, to speculators getting rich on a well-orchestrated property boom on both sides of the United Nations buffer zone that separates the Turkish north from the Greek south.

If the situation is so explosive, why are the Atlantic Alliance and Britain, which have vital military installations on the island, not doing anything about it? The answer perhaps lies in the observation that the status quo has its attractions, too.

Cyprus divided is a country at the crossroads. Its northern loyalties to Turkey conflict with the southern allegiance to Greece, or at least to a Greek way of life, and the twain are not likely to meet in our lifetime. The "mother countries" are tied in a NATO partnership, but united only in a yet untested loyalty to the higher causes of the alliance.

What those causes will be in the coming years remains moot, as NATO's chief protagonist, the United States, and its main antagonist, the Soviet Union, play out an extended romance. The season of goodwill, however, has not obscured the view of Cyprus as a highly strategic and vulnerable piece of land.

Bulent Ecevit, architect of that invasion when he ruled Turkey, also canvassed unsuccessfully for recognition of TRNC during a

The island of Cyprus, 133 miles (222km) long and 57 miles (95 km) broad at its widest point, lies 64 miles (80 km) south of Turkey and 60 miles (100 km) west of Syria and Lebanon. It also sits astride three major inter-sea routes from the Black Sea to the eastern Mediterranean via the Dardanelles and the Aegean, the western Mediterranean to the Red Sea via the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean to the Gulf overland via Turkey/Syria and Iraq.

Less conspicuously, it is convenient for high-stake electronic eavesdropping that is vital to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's overseeing of the Middle East. The sovereign British bases at Dhekelia and Akrotiri, in the Greek Cypriot-administered south, do all that, with instantaneous access to the decision-makers in NATO capitals.

The sovereignty of the bases guarantees some immunity from any communal upheaval that may engage the islanders, Turkish and Greek, but it is also the chief reason why none of the major powers has initiated a serious effort to seek a permanent end to the confrontation between the two sides.

A bifurcated Cyprus, with two rival administrations, a foreign (Turkish) guarantor force, a British military presence and a United Nations peacekeeping force is considerably less able to manoeuvre in the complex games of international politics than if it was one sovereign entity. It is also transparently ripe for manipulation from within and from the outside.

During a recent London visit, the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, was loudly bitter that nobody cared how the stalemate was addressed. In some Cypriot circles, indeed, there is a strong feeling that what the Cypriots consider a deadlock is regarded as a convenient status quo by the major powers involved.

There is little evidence of this, of course, only arguments and observations. In a conversation, Denktaş was particularly resentful of the failure of any government except Turkey to recognise his Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), built on land gained in the Turkish intervention in 1974.

Bulent Ecevit, architect of that invasion when he ruled Turkey, also canvassed unsuccessfully for recognition of TRNC during a

recent visit to London. Like most Turks and Turkish Cypriots, Ecevit believes that the TRNC is irrevocable, but that both communities can still live under one confederal setup. The Greek Cypriots want none of that, of course, and the dispute festers.

Where the stalemate will lead is a question best left for the crystal gazers, but some lines can be drawn. The U.N. peacekeeping operation is effective but not foolproof (141 UNFICYP have been killed since the force was established in 1964). The disparity in economic development between the two sectors is escalating, with annual per capita income in the south now estimated to exceed \$7,000, four times the Turkish Cypriot figure and well above the levels in either mainland Turkey or Greece.

The north's diplomatic isolation, although unofficially less than a few years ago, is hurting. Many Turkish Cypriots are increasingly disillusioned. Says Robert McDonald, author of a new study on Cyprus by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, "the south Nicosia skyline, with its soaring glass and concrete office blocks, compared with the 19th century brick and stone buildings in the Turkish Cypriot northern sector is a daily reminder of the economic gulf and the cause of growing envy."

But the north's economic take-off is not likely to occur while it is shunned by all save Turkey. There have been frequent spurts of excitement over reports of recognition by one country or

another (Brunei, Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc.) but each time something went wrong. Although aid from the Islamic countries has been forthcoming, such as Saudi funding for a highway from Nicosia to Gime (Kyrenia), it isn't enough.

McDonald believes that the TRNC's dilemma leaves it with few comfortable options. "The TRNC could become a province of Turkey, though this would be opposed by a substantial proportion of the Turkish-Cypriot community and would have adverse repercussions for Turkey internationally. It is, however, an option Ankara might be prepared to pursue, rather than accept a solution which led to substantial dilution of the concentration of Turkish-Cypriots in the north."

Few of those closely involved, including influential Cypriots, believe that a solution is at hand. As one Cypriot put it, NATO strategists are unlikely to let Turkey embark on any measure that will bolster its own position in the eastern Mediterranean or "lend it greater preeminence than is necessary in the NATO framework."

Apart from the offence that such an event might cause to Greece, one of these informed observers believes, "NATO simply won't countenance a Turkey which is strong and potentially independent." On the other hand, no quirk of NATO policy is likely to encourage events potentially offensive to Ankara, including a settlement overtly favourable to the Greek Cypriots — Academic File.

LETTERS

Genuine Islam is for change

To the Editor:

WITH reference to the interview which you published in Sunday's (Feb. 26) Jordan Times, I would like to clarify one statement on which I was quoted as saying that reform measures (P. 3 paragraph 4) are not adopted "for religious reasons." What I meant was not quite that, but rather that misinterpretations of religion are sometimes used as excuses for not doing things which are new. I do not believe that genuinely religious people are backward

thinking. Islam in particular is extremely progressive and scientific, and learning flourished in the times when it was more genuinely applied.

As for the future outlook for education in Jordan, I believe the present minister of education to be a balanced and positive person, and with the correct backing — from those working within the ministry as much as anyone — let us hope that the near future will see many improvements.

Abu Al Hussein

A scene from *Summersaults* (Sarikat Sayfeya), the Egyptian film directed by Yousry Nasrallah.

Films from troubled lands

The London Film Festival presented a good cross-section of cinema in the developing world, but the Middle East was not well represented.

By Maureen Ali

LONDON — With over 150 feature films, as well as videos, shorts and animation programmes, the London Film Festival involves an exciting schedule for professional and amateur film buffs alike.

Though there were seven films from the Middle East at the 32nd festival this year, the region as a whole was not well represented. There was only one Egyptian work, but surprisingly there were two films from Iran. There was nothing from Algeria or Morocco, though these countries shared a co-production with Senegal.

Turkey, which has earned its reputation as a festival favourite, presented three films. Although all three Turkish works received enthusiastic write-ups in the festival brochure, Orhan Ozgu's *Desire*, *Everything* (Herseye Kibele) was by far the most accomplished.

This sensitive first film by jazz-winning cameraman Ozgu deals with the theme of loneliness in a comprehensive manner. Hasan (Talat Bulut) is trying to readjust to life after being released from prison on political charges. The only job open to him is as a house driver for a Protestant church. The regular routine of funerals leaves him much time for introspection during which many aspects of his history unfold. Hasan was the victim of an unhappy childhood and the sudden death of his beloved only sister precipitates many sad memories.

This death brings him into contact with his sister's neighbours, a brash young widow and her small son. Hasan is revolted by the woman's advances but feels empathy with the boy — something the mother is quick to exploit. The developing relationship between man and boy promises both emotional fulfilment.

Though the film has some self-indulgent moments, including a somewhat bizarre (though nevertheless intriguing) graveside music recital, it achieves a great deal in terms of atmosphere. The portly Bulut plays his part with ease and sensitivity as a man painfully attempting to come to terms with a life that, at best, has

been difficult.

Turkish films

Life has also been difficult for Melek (Hulya Kocyigit), the heroine of Engin Ayca's *Rag Doll* (Bez bebek) a melodramatic interpretation of the difficulties of womanhood. When her husband was hauled off to jail, Melek found herself forced to cope with an exacting daily routine, tilling the land around her isolated country home.

With only her small daughter for company, she stoically endured her lonely lot until her feelings were aroused by the presence of a local housepainter. The smouldering attraction between the two eventually explodes into a dangerous relationship, culminating in a crime of passion following the husband's return. The pressure of guilt guarantees the demise of the wayward couple.

The story may be daring but it is also excessively long winded. Too much time is wasted establishing the "atmosphere." When the climax is reached, the acting is so unconvincing (and the subtlety so appalling) that many in the audience could not contain their mirth.

Basar Sabuncu's *Impromptu* (Kacamak) also deals with an illicit relationship. In this intriguing but overdrawn tale, a couple are thrown together by the death, in a car accident, of their respective spouses. The dead had been having an affair. The morbid fascination this arouses in the minds of those they have left behind involves the two in a series of chance and deliberate encounters, culminating in a growing, if uneasy, relationship. As a short, the film would have been excellent; at 106 minutes it was too long by half.

Like his mentor Youssef Chahine before him, Yousry Nasrallah casts his mind back to his Egyptian childhood. In the semi-autobiographical *Summersaults* (Sarikat Sayfeya) he tries to recreate the early Nasserite period, when his own prosperous, land-owning family was learning to come to terms with the revolution. In an entertaining, if disjointed, series of episodes seen through the eyes of young Yasser (Ahmad Mohamed Ahmad), the trials and tribulations of the period are reflected in the events

which take place in the family's rambling country house.

Though little attempt is made to recreate the style or dress of the period, the film nevertheless achieves a sense of the past. Few professional actors were involved, yet the performances were on the whole convincing, especially the children, and Yasser and his friend Leil (Hany Hussein) in particular. By no means faultless, *Summersaults* is nevertheless a notable debut for a promising new director.

Iran

From Iran, *The Spell* (Telesim) represents a directorial debut for Dariush Farhang, a graduate in theatre from Tehran University. This Gothic romance, with echoes of Edgar Allan Poe (*Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*), provides neutral subject matter for a slowly reviving Iranian cinema. It was, as the director explained, the only one of his many scripts to be accepted.

The Spell gets off to a lively start with a peasant wedding, in which the bride represents a peace token between warring clans. Forbidden by tradition to speak to anyone but her husband for one year, she embarks on a stormy journey to her groom's village. Bad weather forces the couple to seek sanctuary in a spellbound palace, where a grieving prince mourns his lost bride and an obsequious servant, the villain of course (with a remarkable resemblance to Peter Cushing), doles out poisoned drinks.

Five years earlier, the prince's bride disappeared into thin air on their wedding night and now, after much coming and going, the same fate befalls the new bride. Down she goes to the dungeon where she encounters the missing princess, a shadow of her former self. Up until this point, the film moves along at a brisk pace, with admirably fluid camerawork, prowling round corridors, into mirrors, and up and downstairs while the characters play cat and mouse with each other. Once the ladies meet up, the dialogue becomes dreary and theatrical. The final denouement borders on the absurd.

The film, nevertheless, has a thoroughly professional appearance. Dariush Farhang creates a great deal of movement from what could have been a very static situation but surprisingly, for one trained in theatre, fails to

bring out the best in his actors, most notably, the emaciated princess.

More interesting and more challenging in its subject matter was Mohsen Makhmalbaf's *The Peddler* (Dastforush) three short stories about deprived conditions in urban Iran. The first deals with a couple who live in grinding poverty with their crippled children. Fearing that their healthy new born baby will suffer the same fate as previous offspring, they try to find a suitable home for her. This takes them on a futile quest around the city, where they undergo several chilling experiences, before releasing their innocent charge to its fate.

In the second story the callousness and intolerance of the contemporary urban environment is encapsulated in the tale of a deranged youth trying to cope with his senile mother. The third charts the demise of a peddler involved in smuggling and suspected of betraying his fellow traffickers.

In each story, the style is as different as the subject matter. The first follows a purely linear narrative. In the second, time is unreal and the setting surreal. The third moves freely between past, present and future in an atmosphere of menace and violence. Though each story is accomplished in itself, the three hang inconspicuously together as a feature film.

Ousmane Sembene's *Camp Thiaroye* is more sure of itself. Set in Senegal in 1944 it tells the story of African infantrymen returning for repatriation after five years of fighting alongside Europeans. They are disturbed to find themselves confined to a dreary transit camp where they are expected to comply with the orders of white French officers who fail to come to terms with the heightened political consciousness of the veterans. Matters come to a head when the soldiers rebel against French attempts to cheat them over pay. In a stunning climax, they are all wiped out in a massacre, sanctioned by the French government.

The film, according to Sembene, "represents the past and the contemporary history of Africa." The events portrayed are largely based on fact, researched in France and Senegal. Though the film is long (140 minutes) and occasionally disjointed, its faults are minor — Academic File.

Mitterrand in emperor's clothes

By Zafar Masud

PARIS — The absolutist style of France's President Francois Mitterrand is once again the nub of controversy following his new year address, telecast live from the European Community headquarters in Strasbourg, in which he promised, among other things, humane laws for illegal immigrants.

Critics reacted violently to Mitterrand's gesture, questioning his sincerity and maintaining his promise had the ulterior motive, so close to the municipal elections in March, of whipping up passions and currying favour with the Arab and other immigrant communities of France.

Mitterrand, elected for a second seven-year term only seven months ago, is at the height of his popularity. If one goes by his opinion poll ratings, But Mitterrand's troubles have little to do with the masses. It's the elitist groups of intellectuals, journalists and politicians, a great many from Mitterrand's own Socialist Party, who are showing signs of impatience with what they consider the president's increasingly royal ways. Under Mitterrand II, the critics say, the nation seems to be losing its sense of direction. As evidence the critics cite, among other "near catastrophes" the social chaos which followed a wave of strikes by nurses, postal workers and public transport workers last autumn.

Mitterrand II

Defenders of Mitterrand have been touched to the quick. What may seem to be absolute grandeur to the outsider, they argue, is most probably extreme isolation at the top.

The head of the French state inevitably becomes a victim of the French political tradition. In less than half a century after the French revolution the loneliness of this august position had already given rise to two empires and if the third and fourth republics were credited with great social reforms, they were also marked by great political chaos.

General Charles de Gaulle restored some sense of cohesion in the political institutions with a new constitution which gave birth to the fifth republic in 1958. But de Gaulle also brought back the institution of absolutism to the French presidency, a phenomenon the French had learnt to live with since the times of the Sun King, Louis XIV.

Before Mitterrand and after de Gaulle himself, who never hesitated to use the immense powers he had conferred upon himself through the fifth republic's constitution, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, president from 1974 to 1981, found himself unable to resist the temptation of behaving as a monarch.

An assiduous finance minister under Georges Pompidou, de Gaulle's successor, Valery Giscard d'Estaing started his reign with modest, democratic practices which included dinner with the Parisian garbage disposal staff and surprise knocks on the doors of ordinary citizens with the president enquiring in person if he could be invited in for a bite.

But this did not last long, and the solitude of the office and the near monarchical powers that go with it finally got hold of him. At the end of his presidency Giscard had accumulated the reputation of a French president fond of hunting expeditions with a handful of courtiers and even fond of accepting expensive gifts such as the famous Bokassa diamonds, a charge he has not clearly denied to-date.

While the royal ways were

attributed to de Gaulle's martial and Giscard's aristocratic background, they appear more flagrant in terms of Francois Mitterrand, who is a socialist. A book by former socialist Thierry Pfister and another by journalist Philippe Alexandre have come up recently lambasting Mitterrand and his coterie of sycophants, and television puppet shows portray him as God.

But probably the most exhaustive compilation of charges against Mitterrand's absolutism are contained in a recent series of articles in the newsweekly, *Le Point*, entitled, "Mitterrand, the King and his Court."

At the very outset, the weekly draws its own definition of the Mitterrand era as a "Social Monarchy," pleading that with the social situation in a shambles after the autumn strikes, monarchy was all that the president had left. In a lighter vein the president is criticised for his foible for gourmet restaurants which he is reputed to visit at his whim using the Elysees Palace helicopter.

More seriously the charges against him range from encouraging an inner circle of what is known as a "court" to ordering international events for the promotion of his own image and also appointing his relatives and the relatives of his wife to important posts.

This inner circle of courtiers is supposed to comprise, loyals like Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, former Defence Minister Charles Hernu and former National Assembly speaker Louis Mermaz, while men like Prime Minister Michel Rocard, former Finance Minister Jacques Delors, current president of the European Commission, and former Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy are only tolerated in the outer circle because of their brilliance.

According to widely circulated gossip Pierre Mauroy has to wait for four weeks before obtaining a private audience with Mitterrand — Mauroy's punishment for becoming the secretary general of the Socialist Party last May, when Mitterrand tried his best to have his golden boy, Laurent Fabius, elected to the post. Fabius was later rewarded with the speakership at the National Assembly.

Another of Mitterrand's golden boys is said to be Jacques Attali, who has so much time at hand that, although he earns a princely salary as an adviser, he has found a profitable vocation as a writer of popular novels in his spare hours in his office at the Elysees. Other eminences grises of Mitterrand are said to be Francois de Grossouvre and Constitutional Council president Robert Badinter.

Not all his critics use monarchical expressions while criticising Mitterrand. Some of the innuendoes clearly point to megalomania. The youthful and brilliant director of the Institute of International Relations, Pierre Lelouch, who was only recently appointed adviser to Jacques Chirac, the flamboyant mayor of Paris and Mitterrand's unsuccessful rival in the last elections, says the recent international conferences in Paris on chemical warfare and on human rights, which united two of the most glittering stars of international media, the Polish trade unionist Lech Walesa and the Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov, were the sort of gimmicks that put him off Mitterrand and his kind of Left.

The fact is that Chirac's aggressive style as the Rightist prime minister under a Leftist presidency of Mitterrand during two years (1986-88) is conversely responsible for Francois Mitterrand's gradual retreat into an arrogant



isolation whence he has emerged, in his second seven-year term in office, more like Louis XIV than the socialist Leon Blum whom he admires.

His long arm overreaches the political world to the realm of culture and arts. Clearly he wishes to be remembered at least for the glass pyramid of the Louvre and the futuristic arch of La Defence — his legacy to the French capital in the true tradition of the kings of France. Mitterrand has held the costly, interminable construction projects dear to his heart despite a bitter ongoing controversy.

Meanwhile, the list of family members hoisted the juicy positions has become uncomfortably long. His son, Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, is adviser on Africa. The other son, Gilbert, has been elected — with some string-pull-

ing from papa, say the critics — a member of the National Assembly.

His brother Robert Mitterrand is the boss of the Foreign Trade Centre while his sister Genevieve Delachanal has been appointed to a senior post at the Economic and Social Council, where a close friend of the president's wife, Raphael Doueh, holds the well paid post with the innocuous designation of "qualified person."

Madam Mitterrand's brother, Roger Gouze, is "technical advisor" at the cultural affairs section of Quai d'Orsay, the foreign ministry. At the sprightly age of 76, the president's brother-in-law is the dean of ministerial cabinet.

Some relatives have profited from Mitterrand's ascension indirectly, without political appointments. — Academic File.



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Pre-qualification documents should include the following:

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Economists see need for more credit tightening in United States

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Federal Reserve Bank (Fed) is taking a more aggressive stand against inflation but economists say that even tighter credit will be needed to slow the booming U.S. economy and reassure foreign investors.

On Friday, the U.S. central bank raised its discount rate, which it charges member banks for short-term loans, to seven per cent from 6.5 per cent, the highest since April 1986.

"The Fed is stepping up its tightening of the monetary screw," said Allen Sinai, chief economist at the Boston Co. Economic Advisers Inc. "But will it be enough? I doubt it."

Although the Fed has pushed up money market rates to near 9.75 per cent from 6.5 per cent last March, it has been criticised for not removing inflation from the economy.

This month financial markets have been hit with a batch of statistics which showed higher inflation was emerging but the Fed kept its most potent weapon in reserve.

The discount rate increase came after Wednesday's report that consumer prices rose 0.6 per cent last month, the highest monthly rise in two years. Unemployment is at a 14-year low and wages and prices are on the way up.

Friday's discount rate increase went against the Fed's policy of gradualism and dealt a blow to President Bush's economic plan, which needs increased growth to generate enough revenue to cut the budget deficit.

Higher interest rates curb inflation by raising borrowing costs and lower consumer spending. But tighter credit runs the risk of slowing growth while raising the cost of servicing the \$2.6 trillion national debt.

"The Fed felt it was walking on eggshells after the (October, 1987 stock market) crash but the economy did not slow," said Francis Schott, chief economist at the Equitable Life Assurance Society. "Now the Fed is hitting us over the head."

U.S. banks raised prime lending rates, what they charge primary customers, to 11.5 per cent

from 11 per cent Thursday and Friday putting the prime at its highest since October 1984.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan said earlier last week that the economy is growing faster than was previously believed.

Economists had said the discount rate increase was overdue and higher money market rates will not be enough to slow real growth to under 2.5 per cent in 1989.

"The momentum in the economy is still quite strong, especially in income generation, suggesting that consumption will remain solid," said John Paulus, chief economist at Morgan Stanley and Co.

Despite the Fed's moves, Paulus said he expected real growth to be above the 2.5 per cent he forecast earlier. Growth was 2.7 per cent between the last three months of 1987 and 1988.

The markets have shared the Fed's anxiety over inflation and higher rates. Treasury bonds tumbled and Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average lost more than 40 points after Wednesday's prices report, repeating those losses Friday.

The dollar usually gains on higher interest rates, which make dollar-backed assets more attractive to investors, but the currency has not responded favourably to the Fed's actions.

It ended the week at 1.8180 Deutschmarks and 126.10 Japanese yen, down from 1.8413 marks and 127.08 yen at the close of trading Tuesday. U.S. markets were closed Monday because of a national holiday.

After the Fed dragged its feet on raising the discount rate, economists said the central bank would probably wait at least two months before attacking inflation again.

Its next moves would be of similar magnitude, they added. The central bank's restraint since last March did not change the eco-

nomically material because long-term rates, which affect mortgages and business capital spending, have not moved up much.

"All rates will have to rise significantly further," said Sinai of the Boston Co., who said he expected that the Fed might soon raise both the discount and the federal funds rate, which banks charge each other for overnight loans, if the economy and inflation did not cool.

Darman disagrees

Meanwhile, U.S. Budget Director Richard Darman said in a television interview Saturday he disagreed with Greenspan on the threat of inflation to the American economy.

Darman said he believed the economy would grow faster than Greenspan expected and did not favour a policy based only on tightening monetary policy.

President Bush recently has sought to play down any differences with Greenspan over the economy.

Asked about Greenspan's comments at congressional hearings last week that the Fed would take steps to control inflation even if it

slowed U.S. economic growth, Darman replied:

"I personally don't believe that the inflationary threat is as great as some there (at the Federal Reserve) believe it is at the moment. But putting that issue aside, the more basic difference I think is some there tend to think that a long-term sustainable real growth is only about 2.5 per cent of a little bit less."

Asked if he believed those were Greenspan's views on economic growth, Darman said: "I would say it may be even a majority of the members of the board, including the chairman."

"And this is a legitimate area of difference of view, I believe. I tend to think that our long-term sustainable real growth should be what it has been for the past 40 years, 3.25 per cent real growth, and the issue should be not do we adjust downward in some defeatist way but what are the best policies to achieve that growth," he added.

Darman said that in addressing U.S. economic problems, "I think we'll make it worse by a policy that is oriented toward nothing but monetary tightening."

Comoros prepares to swallow bitter medicine

MORONI, Comoros Islands (R) — Burdened with unpaid debts and a stagnant economy, the Comoros Islands are preparing to join the growing list of Third World nations to take a dose of bitter International Monetary Fund (IMF) medicine.

Finance Minister Said Ahmad said in an interview the Indian Ocean nation is \$20 million in arrears on its \$200 million foreign debt and has little hope of paying this sum and securing fresh development aid without help from the Washington-based IMF.

Though small by Third World standards, the debt is huge for a country of 450,000 which depends heavily of cloves and vanilla exports for its meagre foreign exchange earnings.

Two thirds of the Comoros' debt is owed to Arab nations and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and African Development Bank, which do not allow debts to be rescheduled.

To escape from this debt trap, the Comoros, situated half way between Africa and the northern tip of Madagascar, needs a relatively massive injection of fresh capital.

Most of its traditional donors, including France which ruled the islands until 1975, have refused to increase aid until the government undertakes an IMF structural adjustment programme.

The Comoros began talks with the IMF last year and an IMF team is due to visit Moroni soon to agree the final details of an extended structural adjustment facility.

But Claude Massinet, French assistant director-general of the Comoros Central Bank, said the IMF is demanding tough conditions.

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But Claude Massinet, French assistant director-general of the Comoros Central Bank, said the IMF is demanding tough conditions.

USCB reports first profit in four years

RIYADH (R) — The United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB) said Saturday it had made a profit for the first time in four years, thanks partly to a cost-cutting drive.

The bank, one of 12 commercial banks in Saudi Arabia, said net profit for 1988 was 20.7 million riyals (\$5.5 million) compared with a net loss of 14.8 million riyals (\$4 million) the year before.

It is only the second time USCB has reported a profit since it was formed in October 1983, just as the oil boom was ending and the banking industry was hit by a series of loan repayment problems.

General Manager Gerald Kangas told Reuters part of the reason for the turnaround was an extensive cost-cutting plan.

Koor wins court reprieve

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's biggest industrial concern, Koor Industries, has won a seven-week reprieve from an Israeli bank that threatened to break up the firm for failing to pay back a \$20 million loan.

Koor chief Benny Gaon said Sunday that Bankers Trust, the firm's largest creditor, agreed to withdraw its liquidation suit while Koor, the government, Israeli banks and the Histadrut trade federation worked out a recovery programme.

Bankers Trust told a Tel Aviv court Friday it would temporarily drop the suit it filed last October as a goodwill gesture. But the bank said it would resubmit the petition if no agreement were reached with Koor by April 13.

The Israeli firm, employing 27,000 workers and producing 10 per cent of Israel's gross national product, makes a variety of industrial and consumer equipment as well as chemicals and food products.

Koor, owned by the Histadrut, reported losses for 1987 of \$250 million last June and owes foreign banks some \$405 million.

Aid requests deluge Japan

TOKYO (R) — Japan completed five days of hectic funeral diplomacy Sunday during which it was deluged with aid requests from Third World leaders in Tokyo to attend the last rites for emperor Hirohito last Friday.

Japan is now the world's biggest aid donor and many of the poorest, most debt-ridden countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia sent their top leaders to Hirohito's funeral to push for more development funds from the Japanese.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno were generally positive in their replies to the requests without being specific, foreign ministry officials said.

But in a meeting with Brazilian President Jose Sarney Thursday, Premier Takeshita offered to extend to Brazil new loans worth \$1.5 billion.

In a meeting with President Bush, Takeshita also agreed to continue work on a proposed aid package for the Philippines.

Uno, in a message issued at the end of all the talks, said that Japan "must not become arrogant" in the face of all the foreign aid requests.

Bush urges China to remove barriers to trade, investment

PEKING (R) — President Bush has urged China to lift barriers to foreign trade and investment, calling for a more open market "the true basis for sustained prosperity."

Bush called for better legal protection for investors in China, protection of intellectual property rights and "a less regulated trading system," in an interview with the official New China News Agency published Saturday.

"The opportunities for trade and investment between our two countries are enormous. We have

to find ways of taking advantage of them," he told the agency.

U.S. figures show trade with China in the first 11 months of 1988 was worth \$12.88 billion and total U.S. investment in the country \$3.3 billion, in 500 projects. The United States is China's biggest foreign investor.

Foreign investors and traders complain of stifling bureaucracy, unfair charges, currency controls and restrictions on employing Chinese citizens.

Peking tightened central control on foreign trade in late 1988

as part of a new austerity policy, appearing to set back economic liberalisation.

"More and more nations are realising that the freeing of market forces and human creativity is the true basis for sustained prosperity and national success," the agency quoted Bush as saying.

"The U.S. for its part, must keep its markets open to Chinese exports and continue to give China access to advanced technology needed for modernisation," Bush said.

Paraguay to renegotiate foreign debt

ASUNCION (R) — Paraguay will renegotiate its \$2 billion foreign debt, an official in the government of President Andres Rodriguez, who took power in a coup three weeks ago, said Saturday.

"We must admit that we have difficulties in the economic field," presidential secretary Conrado Pappalardo said.

"But we believe we can overcome this situation refinancing our foreign debt so as not to hold up our development," he told Reuters. He did not give details.

General Rodriguez ousted dictator Alfredo Stroessner in a bloody coup on Feb. 3. He has announced elections for May 1.

Paraguay has begun talks with Brazil, to which it owes \$500 million, Pappalardo said.

Finance Minister Enzo Debernardi, when he announced last Wednesday that Paraguay was introducing a single exchange rate, said the country would have to renegotiate its foreign debt.

The new government's first economic measure since taking power ended the multiple ex-

change rate system introduced by Stroessner in 1982.

Debernardi said "Paraguay, which has debt service arrears of \$300 million and available reserves of \$160 million, would renegotiate part of its debt and pay the rest "as and when this is possible."

He denied Paraguay would cease debt payments or declare a moratorium.

Former government officials under Stroessner are being prosecuted for embezzling state funds and other economic offences.

New coffee pact seem in jeopardy

LONDON (R) — The future of an international agreement to support world coffee prices was in jeopardy Sunday with major consumers and producers sharply split on terms for a new accord.

Five days of talks in London which ended Friday failed to bring together the two sides, divided on how to stop producers selling cheap coffee to consumers outside the 74-nation International Coffee Organisation (ICO).

If they cannot reach a consensus soon the over-supplied coffee market will be left without international support from the end of September when the current six-year pact expires.

This would hit producers which include some of the Third World's biggest debtors. Lower prices on world markets eventually filter down to price tags on supermarket shelves.

The agreement, set up more than 25 years ago, works by limiting supply through export quotas in order to guarantee stable prices for consumers and producers.

Chances of a deal hinge on the positions of Brazil, the biggest producer, and the United States, the largest consumer.

Last week the United States showed no signs of softening its tough negotiating stance. U.S. officials said the Bush administration had not changed U.S. coffee policy.

They said the United States does not want to extend the current pact beyond September, one of the options open, and will only join a new one if the ICO can find a way to end cheap sales to non-members which include the Soviet Union and Algeria.

Brazil seemed inflexible about not wanting any major changes to the existing agreement. But delegates said Brazil's stance was clouded by domestic political uncertainties.

Delegates had hoped last week's talks would produce a draft agreement to give to the ICO plenary when it meets in April.

Producer spokesman Lindenbergette de Brito said the talks provided both sides with better

knowledge of the limits of each others' positions.

The absence of key political decision-makers from Brazil, Colombia and the United States meant the talks looked at options rather than covering real negotiations, delegates said.

Jorio Dauster, Brazil's chief negotiator, did not attend because of a row over policy at the Brazilian Coffee Institute.

Delegates are pinning their hopes on the ICO plenary in early April to end the stalemate. Hugo Roerig, West Germany's representative, said the April talks could be decisive.

But some said nothing would be solved until September, the last scheduled round of talks, just before the pact expires.

The coffee agreement, along with rubber, is one of the few commodity agreements left with power to intervene on world markets.

Failed tin and cocoa pacts have increased doubts about the chances of clinching a new deal for coffee.

New Panama 'military bank' said for troops, not laundering

PANAMA CITY (R) — The manager of a new bank owned by Panama's armed forces has rejected accusations it would be used for money laundering.

Simon Vega, general manager of the Institutional Bank of the Fatherland, told Reuters in an interview the bank was to provide general services to troops. He denied charges that military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega planned to use it to launder money and to expand the military's control over the economy.

Noriega is president of the board of directors of the bank, which opened for use by members of the Panama defence forces (PDF) on Jan. 16.

Vega said Noriega was not involved in the bank's day to day decisions but would take part in setting policy.

The Washington Post recently quoted unnamed U.S. and Panamanian opposition sources as saying Noriega, who was indicted by two U.S. grand juries last year on drug-trafficking charges, had "opened his own bank" for money laundering and that Vega was Noriega's "financial adviser."

Vega, a 49-year-old Panamanian banker who worked for 10 years at an American bank in Chicago, said the accusations were made without proof and were unethical.

"They say I am a long associate and financial adviser to Noriega. Well, I have known General Noriega for a long time, but I never was his financial adviser. I

am not today. I was working for an American bank that forbade me to be engaged in private business."

"No one ever tried to contact me about that information," Vega said, referring to the Post article. "It think (the charges) are unprofessional, unethical and I cannot understand their intentions."

The bank, which offers services including savings and current accounts, Christmas savings accounts, certificates of deposit, mortgages and small business loans, was developed from the PDF's 35-year-old Credit Union, Vega said.

In December 1987, Panama's banking commission granted a licence to the Credit Union to become a full-service bank.

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Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell	French franc	365.0	375.0
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	263.0	267.0
Pound Sterling	943.7	923.4	Dutch guilder	85.0	87.0
Deutschemark	285.8	298.8	Swedish crown	40.0	40.4
Swiss franc	346.5	349.3	Italian lira (for 100)	143.0	142.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)		

U.S. beat Iraq, face Nigeria in youth semis

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The United States pulled off a stunning 2-1 upset of Iraq Saturday and moved into the semifinals of the 1989 World Youth Soccer Cup championship, the farthest an American team ever has advanced in an international soccer competition.

A goal by Chris Henderson in the 14th minute gave the U.S. squad a 1-0 lead, but Karim Mohammed Wali tied it for Iraq in the 36th minute.

In other quarterfinal games Saturday in the tournament played in four Saudi Arabian cities, Brazil beat Argentina 1-1 in Jeddah; Nigeria topped the Soviet Union 5-4 (3-3) on penalty kicks in Dammam; and Portugal edged Colombia 1-0 at Riyadh.

A goal by Chris Henderson in the 14th minute gave the U.S. squad a 1-0 lead, but Karim Mohammed Wali tied it for Iraq in the 36th minute.

U.S. coach Bob Dasser was euphoric after the victory, which gave the Americans a 2-1-1 record in the tournament for players under 20 years old, and moved them into a semifinal game against Nigeria Tuesday.

"My players believed in themselves," Dasser said. "We tried to force play into the middle, while also marking (Hussein Shabb) Laib effectively," he said. Laib is Iraq's offensive star.

It marked the first time in four years that the Americans had gone beyond the first round in this tournament. The Iraqis previously had beaten Spain and Argentina in the opening rounds of the 16-nation tournament.

Besides beating Iraq, the Americans tied Mali, upset East Germany and lost to Brazil, which plays Portugal in the semifinals.

The tournament now becomes single elimination.

Bright in talks to sell Cowboys for \$180m

DALLAS (R) — A week after losing control of his Texas banking empire to the U.S. government, H.R. "Bum" Bright was locked in negotiations Saturday to sell the Dallas Cowboys National Football League (NFL) team.

Sources close to the talks said Arkansas millionaire Jerry Jones appeared to have clinched a deal with Bright worth \$180 million for the team and the lease to Texas stadium, which would be the highest price ever paid in an NFL transaction.

The sources said Jones planned to replace the entire Cowboys coaching staff, which would abruptly end the 29-year career of Tom Landry.

Jones brought to the talks Landry's likely replacement, University of Miami football coach Jimmy Johnson.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jackson knocks out Dejesus

LAS VEGAS (R) — Julian Jackson of the Virgin Islands knocked out Francisco Dejesus of Brazil in the eighth round Saturday to retain his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior middleweight title. Jackson worked on Dejesus's body for most of the scheduled 12-round fight before slamming the Brazilian with a right to the temple that ended it. Referee Mills Lane of the United States counted Dejesus out at two minutes 19 seconds of the round. Jackson also knocked down the Brazilian in the second round with a right hand to the head after softening him up in the early going with body punches. Jackson dominated throughout as the Brazilian mostly tried to stay out of Harm's way and score points with jabs. Jackson raised his record to 35-1, while Dejesus dropped to 25-2.

Nelson stops Martinez, keeps title

LAS VEGAS (R) — Azumah Nelson of Ghana retained his World Boxing Council super featherweight title when the referee stopped his bout against Mexican Mario Martinez in the 12th round Saturday. Nelson ended it with four wicked shots to Martinez's head in the last scheduled round as referee Carlos Padilla of the United States scheduled the bout at one minute 18 seconds of the 12th. Nelson, 30, knocked down Martinez in the opening seconds of the final round with a left hook. The challenger got up, but Nelson attacked, landing four swift blows — left, right, left, right — to the head, leaving Martinez, 23, stupefied. "I was expecting everything tonight," Nelson said. "The fight was very tough, tougher than the first time."

Becker to play Mayotte in pro final

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Boris Becker racked to a 6-3, 6-2 win over Sweden's Mikael Pernfors Saturday to set up a date with the two-time defending champion Tim Mayotte in the final of the \$602,500 U.S. pro indoor tennis championship. "I barely missed the ball," Becker said. "Mikael can be dangerous but I didn't give him a chance and attacked the ball on the rise." Becker, the second seed, took only 75 minutes to eliminate Pernfors, while the third-seeded Mayotte reached his fourth successive U.S. pro final by ousting top-seeded fellow-American Andre Agassi 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in his semifinal. Becker boomed 10 aces against Pernfors. When the points took longer than one stroke he waited for his openings and then would slam the approach shot deep to the corners and come in behind to angle away the volley.

Honeyghan fined \$1,500 for painkiller

LAS VEGAS (R) — Nevada state boxing officials fined British boxer Lloyd Honeyghan \$1,500 Saturday for taking a painkiller shortly before losing his welterweight title to American Marlon Starling earlier this month. Honeyghan, who appeared at the Nevada state athletic commission hearing with his manager, Mickey Duff, readily admitted that his right hand had been injected with the drug — lidocaine, or marcaine as it also is called. Duff said Honeyghan had been injected three other times with the painkiller, twice in Britain and once in Atlantic City, but the dosage was so low it was not detected in a urine sample. Before settling on the fine, commission members debated whether to fine Duff as well, with some members saying he shared responsibility for Honeyghan taking the drug. The ruling was confusing at first and Honeyghan asked whether he or Duff was being fined. "We're going to fine you, Lloyd, and you better get it from him," commission chairman Dr. Elias Ghanem said.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Venus will enter Pisces today for a 25 day transit. This is a harmonious sign for Venus to raise our artistic level. Tap into the affection and warmth of Venus in Pisces.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Channel your feelings into creative work and avoid becoming emotionally wasted. Siblings will expect you to keep promises.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Improve on the quality of life. Check into new sources of income. Social affairs are like a jigsaw with pieces shattered here and there.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Carelessness could become a habit if you let it. There is a flowering of artistic incentive that you can tap into.

MON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Changing environments, in the name of progress, may be a disappointment. Sensitive feelings disrupt a tender relationship and cause the other person to drift.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 23): Complexities at work and home are interlocking problems based on an overloaded schedule. Re-evaluate your time schedules.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 22): Your skeptical analysis of your position at the job site could be right. Determine your future action by examining advantages and disadvantages.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It is risky to do nothing when a financial problem has been growing day by day. Seek out activities that are mutually diversified.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Shape travel plans to your own needs. Plan a crusade to save time and money. Join forces with a friend to stir up social excitement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Exuberant optimism brightens the day and brings compliments from others. A shopping expedition could come off well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You are entering a crucial turning point in a relationship. Put stress on a down-to-earth approach to achieve the right mix.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Wasteful, careless ways are adding to life's confusion. It is a busy day. Continue to emphasize basic and solid skills.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20): You face a difficult work-related situation. A lively evening may find you in some hot spots. Remember your need for sleep.

THE Daily Crossword by Henry Salzhandler

ACROSS

- Opposed to
- Rake
- Sir in India
- Slant
- Mudgepodge
- Met offering
- Satanic
- Comle Sahl
- Caesar
- Lawsuit
- Tools cover
- Time periods
- abbr.
- Watched
- Like some music
- Leap
- Install
- Large prot.
- Courtroom adversary
- Public disorder
- Base
- TNT part
- Conference town
- Sow
- Past
- Coin
- formalities
- Prevent
- Banner
- Valley of yore
- Intermediate
- Tamiroff
- Ancient Asian
- Father in Eng.
- "Dann"
- Yankees' girl
- Seeks flax

DOWN

- Poplar
- Onetime actor
- David
- Sheridan forest
- Muslim faith
- Obey
- Sven genus
- Artist Joan
- Bungle
- Most tender
- Footless
- Half: prof.
- Tabric's land
- Loud noise
- Town on the
- Airs
- Odier's muse
- Threat of yore
- Fr. painter
- Atlanta arena
- Cozy place
- Ripening factor
- Fr. composer
- Wimbledon champ once
- Ron Howard
- role
- 35 Alop
- Office
- reminder
- Teen problem
- 41 insect
- Reversed
- More
- enormous
- Riddle
- Rubbish
- Fragrant wood
- Jack
- Brilliance
- New, town
- Suggestive
- looks
- Incline
- center
- Eye part
- "I was forget"
- Sea eagle
- New, town
- Cole, ski

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. RUMOR 2. BOMB 3. BOMB 4. BOMB 5. BOMB 6. BOMB 7. BOMB 8. BOMB 9. BOMB 10. BOMB 11. BOMB 12. BOMB 13. BOMB 14. BOMB 15. BOMB 16. BOMB 17. BOMB 18. BOMB 19. BOMB 20. BOMB 21. BOMB 22. BOMB 23. BOMB 24. BOMB 25. BOMB 26. BOMB 27. BOMB 28. BOMB 29. BOMB 30. BOMB 31. BOMB 32. BOMB 33. BOMB 34. BOMB 35. BOMB 36. BOMB 37. BOMB 38. BOMB 39. BOMB 40. BOMB 41. BOMB 42. BOMB 43. BOMB 44. BOMB 45. BOMB 46. BOMB 47. BOMB 48. BOMB 49. BOMB 50. BOMB 51. BOMB 52. BOMB 53. BOMB 54. BOMB 55. BOMB 56. BOMB 57. BOMB 58. BOMB 59. BOMB 60. BOMB 61. BOMB 62. BOMB 63. BOMB 64. BOMB 65. BOMB 66. BOMB 67. BOMB 68. BOMB 69. BOMB 70. BOMB 71. BOMB 72. BOMB 73. BOMB 74. BOMB 75. BOMB 76. BOMB 77. BOMB 78. BOMB 79. BOMB 80. BOMB 81. BOMB 82. BOMB 83. BOMB 84. BOMB 85. BOMB 86. BOMB 87. BOMB 88. BOMB 89. BOMB 90. BOMB 91. BOMB 92. BOMB 93. BOMB 94. BOMB 95. BOMB 96. BOMB 97. BOMB 98. BOMB 99. BOMB 100. BOMB

Tyson remains world champion

LAS VEGAS (R) — Mike Tyson stopped a courageous Frank Bruno in the fifth round with a barrage of punches that pinned the British challenger on the ropes to retain his undisputed world heavyweight championship Saturday.

Referee Richard Steele quickly moved in to stop the fight when Bruno was helpless against the battering. Bruno's trainer, Terry Lawless, had jumped onto the apron of the ring to stop the scheduled 12-round fight when he saw his man was defenceless. Steele waved an end to the bout at two minutes 55 seconds of the round.

"I am the greatest fighter in the world," Tyson said after his triumph. "He threw a great deal of hard punches but I refused to go down. They did not faze me."

Tyson decked the Briton in the opening seconds of the first round with a right cross to the head. But Bruno, a 10-1 underdog, was apparently not seriously hurt. He got up and grabbed onto Tyson and even landed a few solid blows of his own.

Bruno, who said before the bout that he would not be intimidated by Tyson's brawling tactics, pushed the champion into the ropes after the knockdown, twisting him around, and began clubbing Tyson in the back of his head.

Bruno gained a measure of respect from the American when he hit Tyson with a hard left hook to the head which wobbled the champion.

After the bell, both men glared at each other and Steele ordered a point taken from Bruno for hitting Tyson on the back.

Bruno's tactic throughout the fight — which lasted longer than many ringsters had predicted — was to throw a few punches and then hold on to Tyson.

But Bruno, criticised by many for being too slow and not able to take a decent punch, weathered several hard blows from the explosive champion.

Steele warned Bruno, 27, several times for holding Tyson around the head and pushing the shorter Tyson's head down.

Tyson, 22, fighting for the first time since he demolished Michael Spinks in just 91 seconds last June, displayed his awesome power but appeared a bit rusty.

He was awkward at times, lunging off balance at the lat Briton, who had an eight cm advantage in height and a 28 cm edge in reach.

Bruno used his reach to keep Tyson off him, but merely flicked his jab in the champion's face.

Bruno began bleeding from his nose early in the fight, as much by forearms and elbows thrown by Tyson in the clinches as by the champion's punches.

The Briton continued holding in the third round and an appar-

— came back with a good left to Tyson's head.

"I was in good shape," Tyson said. "But I could have trained longer. But I did what I had to do."

Asked if he was hurt in the fight, Tyson said: "He hit me with some good punches, but I don't allow myself to be hurt. We're in the hurt business."

"The punches were hard. They made my legs twitch."

Tyson, who was unmarked after the fight, said: "He came to fight. He was tough, he was strong. I couldn't get out of it (the holding tactic). It felt like my head was coming off."

Tyson, in an apparent admis-

tion that he showed a bit of ring rust, said he would like to fight more regularly.

Asked for his thoughts when Bruno got up after he knocked him down in the first round, Tyson said: "I thought 'this could be a long fight'."

Bruno was disappointed but said he was beaten fair and square.

"It's so difficult," said Bruno, who was holding a tissue to his nose. "I'm a winner. I always like to win."

"But my manager, my lady ... told me I did myself proud," said Bruno, who was treated to roaring support from a large contingent of Britons.

Griffith Joyner announces retirement, acting, writing

LONDON (R) — Triple Olympic champion Florence Griffith Joyner, who announced her retirement Saturday, mirrored perfectly the changed world of athletics since the sport went professional six years ago.

Griffith Joyner was the natural successor to fellow-American Carl Lewis, who made headlines before the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics when he was reported as saying he planned to become a bigger star than pop singer Michael Jackson.

Lewis fulfilled his ambition of four gold medals in Los Angeles although he was less successful afterwards with his various commercial ventures.

But Lewis, with his wonderful talent, flashy clothes and designer hairstyle pointed the way clearly to many of his contemporaries.

One of these was a striking looking sprinter called Florence Griffith, as she was known before her marriage to 1984 Olympic triple jump champion Al Joyner.

Griffith Joyner created a minor sensation in Los Angeles with the elongated, curling nails on her left hand.

Flamboyant and calculatedly glamorous, Griffith Joyner was a world class sprinter, finishing behind only Valerie Brisco in the 200 metres.

Her motivation and commitment faltered after Los Angeles but she reemerged in 1987 to take victory in the 4x100 relay and picked up a silver for good measure as anchor for the 4x400 relay squad.

Her 1988 performances showed

seemed irrelevant as she reeled off the four fastest times ever for the 100 metres.

Her second-round time of 10.49 reduced the world record by an astonishing 0.27 of a second and installed her as the hottest of favourites for the sprint double at the Seoul Olympics.

In the weeks leading up to the Olympics, Griffith Joyner was featured on the cover of several leading international magazines and even before her arrival in Seoul she was installed as one of the game's superstars.

When the athletics started, Griffith Joyner surpassed all expectations.

She won the 100 metres, broke the world record for the 200 twice in a day, anchored the U.S. team to victory in the 4x100 relay and picked up a silver for good measure as anchor for the 4x400 relay squad.

Her 1988 performances showed

Griffith Joyner to be the greatest woman sprinter of all time.

But Ben Johnson's disqualification after winning the men's 100 metres for taking steroids cast a shadow over the entire games and the remainder of the athletics programme was conducted in an atmosphere of suspicion and doubt.

Griffith Joyner became the chief target for the sceptics, who included some of her closest rivals.

The doubters queried Griffith Joyner's phenomenal improvement at the advanced age for an athlete of 28 and pointed to the distinct changes in her musculature over a 12-month period.

Her news conference after the 200 final should have been a celebration. Instead it became an exercise in cynicism as journalists shouted questions about drugs through the harrassed Korean interpreters.

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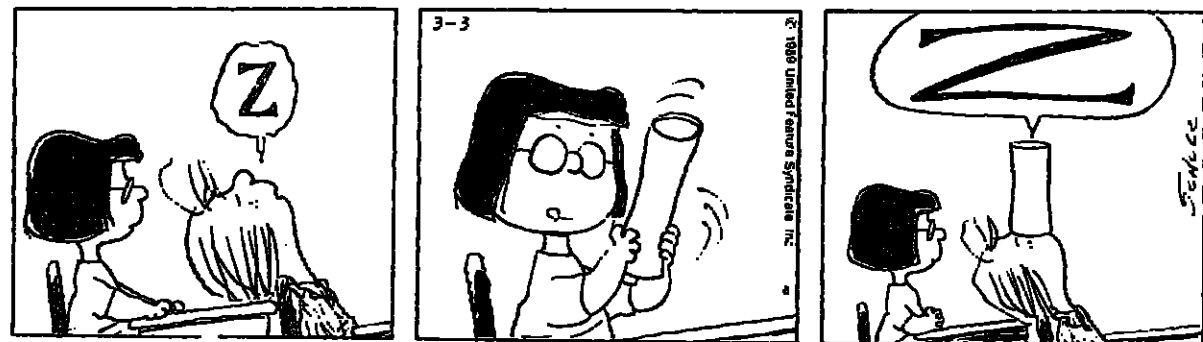
DINNER DANCE PARTY

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Tickets: (JD 10) Per Person are available at:

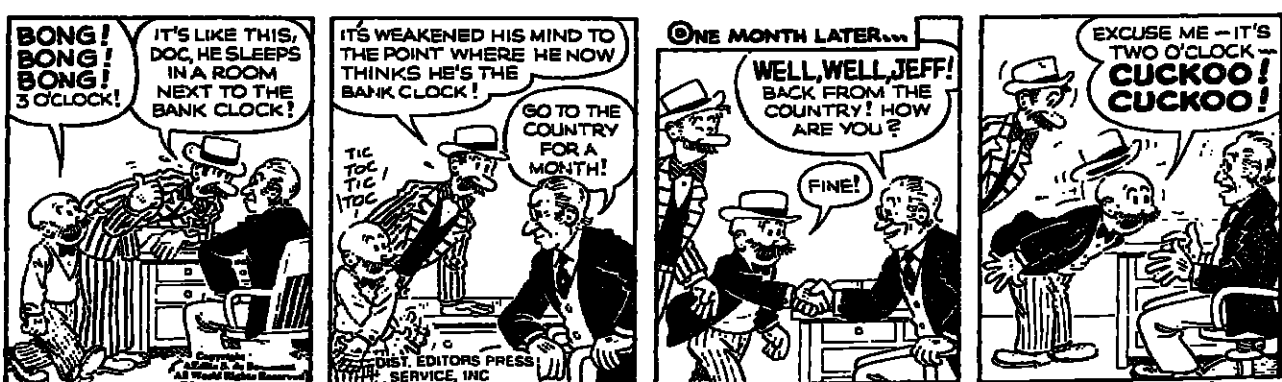
Amra Hotel, Tel. 815071 ext. 1505/6/7
Swedish Embassy, Tel. 669177
Danish Consulate, Tel. 603703

Table can be booked at Amra Hotel.

Peanuts



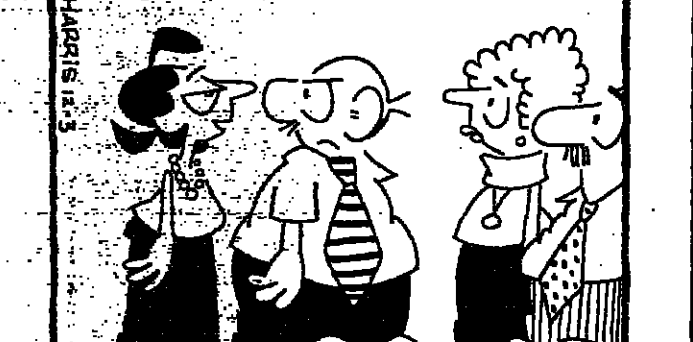
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BLAYK
LOON
DIXEO
BIFCAR
ENPLYT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SOGGY FRANC INCOME ATOMIC
Answer: It's hard to raise a child, especially when it's this—MORNING

Rebellious Kosovo on brink of emergency

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (R) — Yugoslav authorities have sent paramilitary reinforcements to rebellious Kosovo province after failing to coax ethnic Albanians into calling off a wave of strikes.

Political analysts said the province bordering Albania was only a few steps from a state of emergency. Police and troops guarded public buildings in the capital Pristina after witnesses reported seeing tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

The Collective State Presidency, Yugoslavia's highest constitutional body, ordered the security clampdown Saturday to combat mounting ethnic Albanian unrest over attempts by the country's biggest republic Serbia to take control of the province.

Yugoslav Communist Party and state leaders failed Friday to defuse ethnic tension and end strikes led by 1,300 ethnic Albanians in zinc miners, who are staging a sit-in protest 1,000 metres below ground.

The size of the new paramilitary force was not revealed but informed sources in Pristina said there would now be more than 1,000 paramilitary men ready to act if protesters took to the streets.

Unspecified "special measures" had been taken to ensure public services are not interrupted.

The presidency's decision was taken together with Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic. Tanjug news agency said.

The analysts said this was a clear indication the army might also have a role to play in putting down any trouble. Troops have been sent to the province three times — in 1945, 1968 and 1981 — to quell ethnic Albanian unrest.

Miners officials said 90 of the striking miners had been taken to hospital suffering from exhaustion and respiratory problems. The miners have said they were ready to die for their cause.

Yugoslav Communist Party chief Stipe Suvor and his arch-political rival Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic left Kosovo empty-handed Friday. Suvor

spoke to the miners in the Mitrovica pit but they refused to give up.

The miners' sit-in has triggered strikes in Kosovo factories and shops and the university in Pristina, 200 kilometres south of Belgrade.

The miners say they will not leave the pit until Kosovo party chief Rahman Morina and other ethnic Albanian officials they denounce as Serbian stooges resign.

Tanjug said Morina offered to quit Saturday but his resignation had been turned down by the Yugoslav, Serbian and Kosovo Politburos.

"The situation is hopeless," the mine's director Aziz Abrasi said on Yugoslav television. "We have reached a critical moment. Any delays could have catastrophic consequences."

He said the miners' families were insisting on joining the men in the pit. One miner said in a television interview: "I know we shall not come out alive. Let this mine be my tomb."

Sit-in strikes have spread to other mines in the province and residents said ethnic Albanians from around Kosovo were planning to join the Mitrovica mines.



More than 1,000 Yugoslav miners on strike at Start Trg pit, near Pristina, in a protest over treatment of ethnic Albanians.

The Kosovo unrest is over changes in Serbia's constitution which would reimpose the republic's control over the province, given sweeping autonomy in 1974. Milosevic pledged Friday that the changes would not curb Albanian rights, but his words fell on deaf ears.

Tension has risen steadily between Kosovo's 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and 200,000 Slavs, mostly Serbs, since bloody riots in 1981.

U.S. president woos Peking

PEKING (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush, clearly relishing his return to China, Sunday held what aides called "remarkable and unprecedented" talks with the country's leaders whom he treated to a Texas-style barbecue.

"I want you all to know that China and her people will always hold a special place in Barbara's heart and in mine," Bush said as he toasted Chinese-American friendship at the barbecue in honour of the Chinese leaders.

"The American people and the Chinese people have joined in an historic rendezvous that has become a permanent friendship," he said.

Bush, chief U.S. envoy to China from 1974 to 1975, also praised Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. "No one can doubt that Chairman Deng Xiaoping will be counted among the pre-eminent statesmen of our times," Bush said in his dinner toast.

"His ideas, his courage, and his actions have in the past years, made a profound difference for the better," he said.

The barbecue, for which Bush flew 500 pounds of beef, pork and chicken from the United States, ended a day in which he worshipped in Peking's largest Protestant church, spoke to the U.S. embassy staff and held lengthy meetings with Deng, Premier Li Peng and Communist Party Secretary Zhao Ziyang.

Earlier Sunday, Bush spoke to China's millions in an unprecedented live television interview and said he wanted to reaffirm the importance the United States placed on its ties with Peking.

"This relation will grow and it will prosper," Bush said.

The president had invited China's leading dissident, Fang Lizhi, but an American who accompanied the government critic said police blocked Fang at the door to the hotel. The White House had no immediate comment and there was no indication that Bush was aware his guest had been barred from the banquet.

Bush leaves Peking Monday for a brief stop in Seoul before returning to the United States. He began his Asian tour, the first overseas trip of his month-old presidency, in Japan where he attended the funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

Bush also met Sunday with Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Kampuchea and said that "we strongly support" the exiled resistance leader in his campaign for withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from his country.

Both the United States and China want Sihanouk to lead a coalition government in Kampuchea.

Bush also expressed concern about the proliferation of ballistic missiles, a sore point between the countries for a time when Chinese-made Silkworm missiles sold to Iran posed a threat to U.S. naval forces in the Gulf.

Deng and Bush spent an hour in private talks on Sino-Soviet relations and the May summit between Deng and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The ease between the two was evident at the start of their meeting when they joked about their card-playing abilities and Bush's heavy workload as president.

COLUMN

Model fined for sacrilege

BANGKOK (R) — An American model who posed for fashion photos by snuggling scantily clad in the lap of a Buddha, was convicted of sacrilege by a Thai court, police said Saturday. Police in the southern resort Phuket said 23-year-old model Kara Young, of California, and her photographer, Santa d'Arzio, 33, of New Jersey, were each fined 3,000 baht (\$120) and given 18-month suspended jail terms after pleading guilty Friday. Young and d'Arzio, working for a French magazine, were arrested in a Phuket temple last Sunday when worshippers complained to police about the model who was braless and wearing a skimpy see-through dress. They were freed on bail and left the country soon after appearing in court, police said. Thai authorities require tourists to be properly dressed during visits to Buddhist shrines.

Town is duck dealer to world

HANOVER, Illinois (AP) — Whistling Wings, Incorporated raises mallard ducks by the hundreds of thousands for customers ranging from restaurants to the emperor of Japan, making this tiny town the duck broker to the world. Each year, 200,000 mallards are born in this town of 1,100, which lies 16 kilometres east of the Mississippi River in the northwestern corner of Illinois. They're sold to conservation groups, university researchers, hunting clubs, foreign palaces and even a few restaurants — around the globe. "We originally started as a hunting club, but it never really got off the ground," said Bill Whalen, son of founder Leo Whalen, who shares duck-keeping duties with his sister, Marianne Whalen Murphy. "Dad brought the idea home from Europe after World War II. But at that time we were too far from any major city to draw hunters, so we diversified and simply went into raising the birds," he said. Because mallards are the most popular hunting ducks, Whistling Wings stuck with them.

Turner visits girl scouts

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri (AP) — A soft spot for the girl scouts organisation brought actress Kathleen Turner to Springfield to help raise money for a girl scout camp and to talk to nearly 3,000 girls about her filmmaking career. "The older girls mainly wanted to know what it was like kissing Michael Douglas" in the movies "Romancing the Stone" and "Jewel of the Nile," Turner said. "I told them 'he's not bad'." The chat with about 2,700 girl scouts took place Saturday at an arena at Southwest Missouri State University. Later, Turner was the guest of honour at a dinner and reception to benefit girl scout camp Elmbrook. More than 300 people attended. Turner, who attended Southwest Missouri State in the early 1970s, said she grew up with the girl scouts in the United States, England and Venezuela. Her mother, Pat Turner, has been a girl scout volunteer since the 1960s.

Compasses give laxative direction

HIRTSHALS, Denmark (R) — A thief in this north Danish port got more than he bargained for when he stole 30 compasses from fishing boats to drink the alcoholic liquid that prevents them from freezing. "Compasses have been found lying in the street like empty bottles," a police constable said. The thief must have known the liquid is 98 per cent alcohol, but did he know it also contained glycerine, a potent laxative, the policeman wondered.

Bush meets old tennis friends

PEKING (AP) — U.S. President George Bush Sunday was reunited with Chinese who returned his backhands and dipped his head when he was envoy to China in 1974-75. "I'm the president now, but I can't forget my old friends," the official Xinhua news agency quoted Bush as saying to a former tennis partner and two former barbers at the Peking international club. Bush bicycled to the club, located near many of Peking's diplomatic missions, almost every day during his stay here to play tennis, the report said. Mrs. Bush practiced Chinese "tai qi" exercises at the club. Ji Enyi, a retired employee of the club and Bush's past tennis partner, asked Mrs. Bush whether she still practices the slow-motion breathing exercises. She said no, but added she is in good shape.

Where is Nicaragua? — a key issue in North trial

WASHINGTON (R) — Jurors at the Oliver North trial find it hard to stay awake in spite of efforts by the judge and lawyers to spell out in simple terms the murky world of international double-dealing and gun-running.

In its drive to help the jury follow what is going on the court has already posed and answered such fundamental questions as: Where is Nicaragua? What is a contra?

The bigger question is how to present a complicated case involving governments, unidentified spies, millions of dollars and the integrity of the U.S. presidency to jurors chosen chiefly for their ignorance of current affairs.

The answer is very gently, judging by the first week in the trial of fired Reagan White House aide North on 12 charges of cover-up and misconduct in the Iran-contra scandal.

From the moment the 12 jurors and six alternates walked into court Feb. 21, trial Judge Gerhard Gesell did his best to put them at ease.

"You're now judges," he told them. "You're judges of the facts... there are two versions of the facts, at least two versions. You should keep what we call an open mind."

Special prosecutor John Keiser and chief defence counsel Brendan Sullivan used huge maps to make their opening statements clear in a case revolving around the secret sales of U.S. arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaragua's contra rebels in 1985 and 1986.

Pointing to Nicaragua on the map, Keiser used a kind of legalistic baby-talk to explain the war between the left-wing Managua government — "sometimes you'll hear them called 'Sandinistas' — and the

U.S.-backed rebels — "some people call them 'contras' or freedom fighters or guerrillas."

Keiser's explanation could have served as a primer on U.S. Nicaraguan policy for anyone who had missed newspapers, magazines, television and radio for the last eight years.

That might seem to include the jurors. They were picked because they had barely heard of North and knew next to nothing about the Iran-contra scandal.

The row rocked the Reagan presidency when it broke in November 1986. North was fired from his National Security Council (NSC) job at the White House but inspired a wave of patriotic "Olliemania" with his testimony at televised congressional hearings the next year.

North has pleaded not guilty to all 12 charges including lying to Congress, shredding or

altering government documents and other misconduct.

The jurors occasionally fidget and some in the back row doze when the courtroom gets stuffy. They seldom seem to focus on North.

Defence lawyer Sullivan produced maps so often that the judge said: "Mr. Sullivan only missed one thing with his map — he didn't point out the North pole."

Sullivan had pointed out "The yellow Cuba country and the yellow Nicaragua country" on one map and identified the Soviet Union as "This big block of white" on another.

Sometimes his pursuit of simplicity seemed to get the better of him, such as when he questioned Congressman Lee Hamilton, former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, about the dangers of Soviet encroachment in the mid-1980s.



"The Soviets are our enemies, right?" Sullivan asked the 24-year congressional veteran.

"At that time? Or at this time?" Hamilton snipped. The reply prompted giggles from the public gallery but none of the jurors smiled.

Poland cracks down on riots

WARSAW (R) — Poland's government has ordered a clampdown on illegal public protests after anti-communist student demonstrations ended in street clashes with police.

Authorities said 39 policemen were injured and 24 students were detained during violence in the southern city of Krakow Friday. Police fired tear gas on youths who marched through the city centre throwing stones and jars of red paint and scattering anti-communist leaflets.

"The government took decisions aimed at preventing the destabilisation of the state," an official statement said Saturday. "The government recommended that organs which protect public order should take firm counteraction against violations of the law."

Denouncing the violence as an attempt to torpedo talks which started this month between the

authorities and the banned Solidarity trade union, the government said social order was essential if the negotiations were to succeed.

"A breakdown of the programme of radical reforms would have a dramatic fallout for the future of the country, and for those who are organising the brawls," the government said.

The Krakow demonstrations involved two radical groups, the Confederation of an Independent Poland and the Federation of Fighting Youth. They have criticised the Solidarity leadership for talking with the government.

The two groups are small and do not enjoy the backing of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and his colleagues. But they have vocal bands of supporters who support their aims of abolishing communism and removing all Soviet influence in Poland.

The government was also irri-

tated by a protest in central Warsaw Friday in which hundreds of youths painted irreverent anti-Communist slogans on walls, pavements and shop windows.

Fifty-one people were detained, of whom 12 face legal proceedings. Damage was estimated at five million zlotys (\$9,000), the official news agency PAP said.

Other street protests and industrial disputes have flared this month since Solidarity started its negotiations with the government in the hope of regaining the legal status which it lost after the imposition of martial law in 1981.

Until Friday, no protest was particularly violent. But all showed the problems Walesa and his colleagues face in trying to restrain radical young workers and students angered by years of economic hardship and what they see as political repression.

Tower goes public

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Tower is going public with his campaign to become defence secretary, as President George Bush vows to go face-to-face with wavering senators in an effort to win enough Democratic support to get Tower confirmed.

Tower was booked onto a Sunday morning network television interview show and is planning a speech, probably Tuesday, at the National Press Club.

Bush, meanwhile, told reporters in Tokyo Saturday that he will meet individually with 10 or more Democratic Senators after he returns to the White House Monday from a four-day Asian trip.

"I'll do it personally and I'll do it as forcefully as I can," the president said. "I will encourage people to look at the facts."

Like Bush a Republican, Tower must be approved by the Senate, where Democrats are in the majority, before he can be appointed as defence secretary. Some Tower opponents have said perceptions that he is a drinker and womaniser and may have conflict of interest problems are valid reasons to vote against him even if there is no proof of such things.

"That's not fair enough and that's not high enough a standard when it comes to the confirma-

tion of an important nominee of this nature," said Bush. "So I have made some calls and I will be talking to whoever remains open minded."

The decision to assign a high-profile role to Tower and have the president exert his personal influence is part of a battle plan worked out with Senate Republican leaders in an effort to salvage the nomination, or, at least, save face for a Republican president on the job only a month. Bush was sworn in Jan. 20.

Senate minority leader Bob Dole, who leads the chamber's Republican faction, detailed part of the plan Friday, hours after members of the Senate Armed Services Committee dealt Tower, a former colleague and one-time chairman, a crushing blow.

The committee, whose recommendation is bound to influence the Senate vote, cast ballots 11-9 along party lines late Thursday to recommend that the full Senate reject the Tower nomination.

"I cannot in good conscience vote to put an individual at the top of the chain of command when his history of excessive drinking is such that he would not be selected to command a missile wing, a SAC bomber squadron or a Trident missile submarine," said Democratic Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the committee.



John Tower

Other Democrats echoed his view.

Nunn also was booked onto a Sunday talk show, one airing in Washington in a time slot just before the show featuring Tower begins on a rival network.

On Friday, Tower met at the White House with Dole and Vice President Dan Quayle for a strategy session.

Democrats hold a 55-45 majority in the Senate, meaning Bush must pick up at least five Democrats to assure Tower's confirmation. Dole said he believed all 45 Republicans were behind Tower.

Tower has been dogged by charges of excessive drinking and womanising as well as conflict-of-interest questions.

Life is no party for U.S. embassy staff in Panama

PANAMA CITY (R) — Life is no party for employees of the U.S. embassy here, which is locked in a stand-off with military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega after U.S. efforts to force his ouster failed.

For a year now the embassy has been functioning without any direct contact with the government of Panama, recognising instead ousted President Eric Arturo Delvalle.

The policy has created some unusual diplomatic quandries. U.S. supporters call the situation unique. Critics call it silly and surreal.

U.S. diplomats here are not allowed to attend third country diplomatic events — and that means parties — where "regime officials" are in attendance.

Last week the Japanese embassy mounted a gala party for its departing ambassador, a high-level social event attended by elegantly attired ambassadors, politicians of all persuasions and top government officials.

U.S. embassy officials stayed home.

Diplomatic sources said the Americans privately apologised to the Japanese embassy and explained they could not come because "regime" people were attending.

The U.S. embassy, under orders from Washington, does not recognise the Solis Palma government, nor its mail. All

letters and messages from the government to the embassy are stamped "return to sender" and sent back unopened.

Nearly a year ago one American diplomat was declared *persona non grata* and ordered out of the country. But because the embassy does not recognise the government that gave the order, the diplomat is still at his desk on the permission of Delvalle.

Some 40 embassy officials do not have proper documentation. They do not recognise the foreign ministry that would update their visas, driver's licences or car number plates. The deadline for new 1989 plates is next week and at one point the embassy considered renting cars for personnel, but rejected that option.

U.S. sanctions against Panama geared to force Noriega out of power have made the embassy very unpopular with the government and its supporters.

The American ambassador and other embassy officials are frequently portrayed in very unflattering cartoons in the local press.

In December about 100 members of Panama's new homegrown militia "dignity battalions" put up a billboard-sized painted sign in front of the U.S. embassy depicting the faces of Ambassador Arthur Davis, his daughter Susan, and deputy chief of mission John Maisto.

"The people repudiate these gringos, they are unwelcome," reads the sign.



Joyce Seipei, the mother of Stompie Seipei, at a press conference earlier this week where she flatly denied rumours that her son was still alive.

Mandela confers with husband amid scandal

CAPE TOWN (R) — Winnie Mandela, at the centre of a scandal over murder charges linked to her squad of private bodyguards, spent more than three hours visiting her husband Nelson in prison Sunday.

A grim-looking Mrs. Mandela refused to talk to reporters after the visit to the Victor Verster prison in Paarl, near Cape Town, where Mandela lives in a warden's villa.

It was not known exactly how long she conferred with her husband, but it was her second visit this month and probably one of the longest since he was jailed in 1962.

Prison rules restricting visits to 40 minutes were relaxed when Mandela, 70, was moved to Paarl in December.

Three of Mrs. Mandela's bodyguards have been charged with murdering a child activist, Stom-

pie Seipei, who was buried Saturday.

Her former friends in anti-apartheid groups have denounced her, leaving her isolated in the black community which once hailed her as a heroic fighter for racial equality.

Mandela is known to be seriously disturbed about the way the scandal is harming the anti-apartheid cause.

Last week he summoned two top lawyers, presumably to discuss the legal aspects of the Seipei case.

Mrs. Mandela was conspicuously absent from Seipei's funeral and her name was not mentioned once during the ceremonies.

Police have dismissed her assertion that a decomposing corpse that was discovered buried with a cut throat was not Seipei,